



Sunday, 25 October 2026

A NEW ERA FOR AVIATION TAKES FLIGHT AT WSI

***** Editor's Note: B-roll and imagery are [available for download here](#), which will be updated throughout the day with new content from key moments including the inaugural departure. The link also includes the fact sheet and opening day schedule *****

Australia's first major international airport in more than half a century will officially open and see its inaugural flights take to the skies today, ushering in a bold new era of aviation for the nation.

Welcoming its first passengers flying today with Jetstar, Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) is set to transform the way Sydney-siders travel domestically and abroad, substantially boosting capacity, creating greater choice and delivering 24-hour connectivity.

WSI CEO Simon Hickey will be joined by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King, and NSW Premier Chris Minns to officially open WSI, marking a defining moment in Australia's aviation history.

Mr Hickey said Western Sydney International's launch and first passenger flight is an historic moment for Western Sydney and the thousands of people who've spent millions of hours bringing Australia's new state-of-the-art airport to life.

"For decades, countless people have advocated for an airport in Western Sydney and the social and economic benefits it would provide. Today, that ambition will become a reality as we mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter in our city's cultural heartland," he said.

"WSI is the most transformational piece of infrastructure our nation has seen since the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It brings the world closer to Western Sydney and opportunity closer to home, creating new meaningful jobs for generations to come. Young people growing up in the West can now look to the sky and see their future is bright and right here, in their own backyard."

Passengers travelling with Jetstar through WSI on its first domestic flights JQ365 to the Gold Coast and JQ375 to Melbourne, will experience a terminal designed from the ground up that incorporates modern aviation technology and has the needs of customers at its heart.

Domestic and international gates sit under one roof, while world-leading check-in, baggage and airfield technology helps deliver a seamless, stress-free experience for passengers and airlines.

"WSI is here to grow with Sydney for the coming century, expand choice for travellers and airlines, and connect more people with more places and opportunities," Mr Hickey said.

"WSI's passengers will be able to enjoy access to more than 250 destinations around the globe just over a year from now – a remarkable start for Sydney's new 24-hour gateway."

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said, "For the first time in more than 50 years, Australia is opening a major new airport. It's a milestone that has been decades in the making and one that belongs to the people of Western Sydney.

"I've been a strong supporter of this project for a long time and I'm very proud to officially open it.

"I want to thank the thousands of workers who made it happen. This airport will make a real difference for Western Sydney, creating jobs, supporting local businesses and making it easier for people to travel for generations to come."

WSI opens with capacity to cater for up to 10 million passengers a year and has been designed to grow with Sydney. Over time, it is expected to become Australia's primary gateway, with capacity for more than 80 million passengers annually.

The airport's 24-hour operations will add much-needed capacity to the Sydney aviation market and give airlines greater flexibility to introduce new services and routes. For travellers, that means more choice over when, where and how they fly.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King said, "It can't be overstated how big a moment this is for Western Sydney, for its people, for its economy and its industries.

"Today is a real milestone in our country's travel history, and with tomorrow seeing the first international flight leave the tarmac for Auckland- the sky is the limit."

While WSI has been built for all of Sydney, it is proudly at home in Western Sydney – the nation's third-largest economy and home to one in 10 Australians comprising more than 170 ancestries.

Passengers flying to and from WSI have a range of convenient transport options – from public bus links, taxi, rideshare, car rentals and extensive on-site parking – using newly upgraded roads, including the toll-free M12, providing efficient connectivity to the airport.

The opening of passenger services follows the commencement of operations at the WSI Cargo Precinct on 27 July. Since opening, Sydney's only dedicated 24-hour aviation cargo hub has

supported more than 1,000 flight movements carrying critical goods for consumers and businesses across NSW.

AIRLINE PARTNER QUOTES AVAILABLE FOR MEDIA USE:

Jetstar CEO Stephanie Tully said:

"This is an historic day for aviation in Australia, and we're proud to bring more choice and low fares to Western Sydney. For many customers, the uber or taxi across the city has been the most expensive part of their trip. From today, for three million people who live in and around Western Sydney, low fares start a lot closer to home.

"We've got a strong track record of opening up new markets, and Western Sydney, one of the fastest growing regions in the country, is going to be one of the great ones. We can't wait to help more people take-off more for less."

Air New Zealand Chief Operations Officer – Ground and Inflight Kate Boyer said:

"We're incredibly proud to be the first international airline to connect Western Sydney with New Zealand. The connection between our two countries is so important, bringing families and friends together, supporting businesses and creating opportunities for tourism on both sides of the Tasman.

"Congratulations to the Western Sydney International Airport team on this historic milestone. We look forward to building on our partnership and helping grow travel between our two countries for many years to come."

Singapore Airlines Regional Vice President South West Pacific Foo Chai Woo said:

"Singapore Airlines (SIA) looks forward to welcoming customers to Australia's newest gateway at Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) from 23 November, and we are ready to introduce them to the seamless end-to-end travel experience and award-winning service for which SIA is known.

"As one of Australia's longest serving international airlines, SIA is proud to be a part of the next chapter of Australian aviation at WSI, and we congratulate the airport team and everyone who has helped bring this significant project to life."

Qantas Group CEO Vanessa Hudson said:

"For 105 years our mission has been to connect Australia, and today Jetstar will operate the first commercial passenger flight from a major new Australian airport in more than 50 years. Western Sydney International is set to become a central piece of the country's aviation infrastructure, and we're proud the Qantas Group is there from the very start.

"We're already operating up to 72 flights per week from the airport's new 24-hour freight precinct and we are excited to begin Qantas passenger flights in March. We look forward to growing alongside the airport in the years ahead."

Vietjet CEO Nguyen Thanh Son said:

"Vietjet congratulates Western Sydney International Airport on its official opening, marking a new aviation gateway that brings Vietnamese and international travellers closer to Greater Sydney and New South Wales.

"As Vietjet continues to expand its network across Australia and beyond, we're pleased to be part of the growing connections between Western Sydney and the world. We look forward to welcoming our first passengers on flights to and from Western Sydney in January 2027, just ahead of Vietnam's vibrant Lunar New Year celebrations."

Fiji Airways MD & CEO Paul Scurrah said:

"The official opening of WSI marks just over 20 weeks until Fiji Airways brings Fiji closer than ever to the Western Sydney community. WSI is an impressive new gateway for the region, and from March 2027, our direct services will give local travellers a faster and easier way to experience Fiji's tropical paradise, rich culture and famous hospitality.

"The new WSI to Nadi route will also be an important connection for Western Sydney's Fijian diaspora, bringing them closer to loved ones back home. We look forward to welcoming many more guests from Western Sydney on board the World's Happiest Airline."

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Hamad Al Khater said:

"Australia has long been one of our most important markets and the introduction of Qatar Airways flights to Western Sydney International reflects our confidence in the region's growth and future potential.

"By bringing our award-winning service to this new Sydney gateway, we are making international travel more accessible than ever for millions of residents, while creating new trade, tourism, investment, and cultural exchange opportunities.

"We congratulate Simon and the team for today's launch and wish them every success and look forward to the Qatar Airways flight launch in December next year."

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

media@wsiairport.com.au

Brooke Eggleton | 0481 794 640

Caroline Streeter | 0402 170 901

Oscar Dean | 0423 223 688