



QANTAS' MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR FLIGHT TRAINING CENTRE CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF

29 November 2019

The state's Independent Planning Commission has granted development consent for a new multi-million-dollar pilot training centre in Sydney.

Qantas (the Applicant) sought planning approval to build and operate the flight training facility at its Mascot Campus, near Sydney's Domestic Airport.

Its existing training centre, which supports more than 2500 pilots and cabin crew every year, will be partially demolished as part of the 'Sydney Gateway' road project.

The airline also plans to erect a 14-storey car park on the three-hectare site, taking the total cost of the project to approximately \$165-million.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment finalised its whole-of-government assessment earlier this month but the state significant development application was forwarded to the Commission for determination because Qantas had made a political donations disclosure.

Commissioner John Hann was appointed to consider the proposal. He met with the Applicant and Department and conducted an inspection of the site and surrounding area.

After considering all the evidence, the Commission has today (Friday 29 November 2019) determined to approve the state significant development application, subject to conditions.

"The Commission considers the key impacts of the Proposal include changes to local traffic patterns and car parking, construction noise, urban design considerations and bicycle infrastructure," its Statement of Reasons for Decision noted. "However, all these impacts are manageable and have been appropriately addressed by the Application or via the Department's recommended conditions of consent."

The Commission concluded the Proposal is "in the public interest because it:

- demonstrates consistency with the objects of the *[Environmental Planning & Assessment Act]*... by promoting the orderly and economic use and development of the land consistent with relevant strategic planning...
- is consistent with the principles of [Ecologically Sustainable Development]... and
- ensures Qantas continues to comply with [Civil Aviation Safety Authority] regulations and thereby supports the safe and efficient operation of Sydney Airport."

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Qantas must vacate its current training facility, home to 12 full-motion flight simulators, by 31 December 2021.

“As part of Gateway, Qantas Drive will be widened... which will require the partial demolition of Qantas’ existing flight training centre,” Qantas advised in its Environmental Impact Statement.

“The vibrations associated with the construction and operation of Gateway will exceed the Civil Aviation Safety Authority’s (CASA) regulatory requirements in relation to the operation of Qantas’ simulators.

“Were the existing flight training centre not being critically impacted by the approximately 16 metre expansion of Qantas Drive as part of Gateway, Qantas would not be moving from its existing facility. This is due to the latent economic value, ongoing functionality and strategic location of the existing flight training centre,” it confirmed.

Qantas also emphasised the need for it to commence work on its new training centre as soon as possible to avoid either delaying the construction of Gateway or the potential grounding of its fleet.

Meanwhile, the new multi-storey car park will provide parking for up to 2059 Qantas employees – replacing and consolidating several car parks used by the airline’s staff across the Mascot Campus, Qantas Jet Base and the Domestic Terminal.

The Commission’s full Statement of Reasons for Decision is available here:

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2019/11/qantas-flight-training-centre-ssd-10154>

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