



Michael Kilgariff, Australian Logistics Council Managing Director
Interview with Stuart Bocking, 2UE Morning Show
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Badgerys Creek Airport Curfew

Bocking: Now, of course, all of the arguments over the airport at Badgerys Creek, one of those things emerging yet again as an election issue in part, because Chris Bowen's Seat of McMahon falls broadly around that Badgerys Creek area is what happens in terms of noise, flight sharing arrangements, and of course, does it operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

Well, they are talking about a partial curfew of sorts, but there are plenty who believe that unless it is curfew free, you end up with a white elephant. One of those who is Michael Kilgariff, he is the Managing Director of the Australian Logistics Council and he has been good enough to join us. Good morning Michael.

Kilgariff: Good morning Stuart.

Bocking: How important is it from your perspective that Badgerys Creek Airport does operate without a curfew, 24 hours a day seven days a week once it opens?

Kilgariff: Look it's absolutely critical that the airport has no restrictions whatsoever and including curfews. If the airport is to realise that 9 billion dollars of benefit to the western Sydney area, it needs to be able to have unfettered access in terms of a 24 hour airport.

Bocking: And that will obviously make it more attractive particularly from some of the Asian ports later at night with flights coming in at 2, 3 4 o'clock in the morning?

Kilgariff: Well it does. And look, the Aviation White Paper predicted that air freight would likely double from 2013 to 2025 and if you look at the way that Melbourne Airport is going and Brisbane Airport, they have 24 hour access, they have considerable freight parks built around those airports.

No-one should be in any doubt whatsoever that if Sydney were to impose a curfew on western Sydney that freight would be diverted to other airports and western Sydney would suffer as a result.

Bocking: Yes, but what about people who say well hang on a second, Kingsford Smith, it has had this curfew operate for years and years and years. Why can it have a curfew and a new one can't?

Kilgariff: Well, there are two reasons for that. One is that Badgerys Creek has effectively been zoned as an aviation precinct for quite some decades, so it should come as no surprise to anybody that while there was some procrastination around actually given it the go ahead, that there is an

airport going ahead at Badgerys. The other thing is, part of the reason that we are now looking at Badgerys Creek as a second airport in Sydney is because of the restrictions and the curfews which have been imposed on Kingsford Smith.

Bocking: Badgerys Creek is a function of some of those problems that have finally come to a head.

Kilgariff: Well it is, and the two airports really need to work together. They are not really in our view competitors, but to shut off Badgerys Creek Airport this early in the cycle and to impose restrictions on it is really going to put a hobble on the airport right from the very go.

Bocking: And the important thing is that again development in some of these areas that might be sensitive to aircraft noise around Badgerys Creek has been limited for many years because this has been on the drawing board for the better part of 30 years.

Kilgariff: Well that's exactly the case, and one of things that this industry suffers from by the way is increasingly we have encroachment on areas which have been identified as freight logistics areas and so we should really be putting a stake in the ground now and saying look, this airport will be a 24 hour access airport and making sure the zoning and the planning around it recognises this fact, rather than allowing encroachment at Badgerys Creek.

Bocking: Yes all very important so the battle lines are drawn, you hope it doesn't get mired in politics which invariably these things do because you are quite right when you talk about competition in terms of logistics from other major capitals like Melbourne and Brisbane. Good to chat with you Michael.

Kilgariff: Thank you, good to chat with you.

Bocking: I appreciate your time; Michael Kilgariff, who is the Managing Director of the Australian Logistics Council. So that battle will continue on but it seems to me it only makes sense to avoid the thing becoming a bit of a white elephant it will need to have to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. His concern being if it doesn't, a lot of potential growth in freight and the like will head elsewhere.