

Airport Expansion Plans

Here's what the government and aviation industry want:

- The building of a second runway at Stansted by 2011/12;
- The building of a third runway at Heathrow by 2015 or 2020;
- The building of a second runway at Gatwick by around 2019;
- To make full use of the full-length runway at Luton;
- The building of a new short runway at Birmingham around 2016;
- The building of a new runway at Edinburgh around 2020; and
- To extend the runway at Aberdeen Airport

They are also:

- Safeguarding land for a possible second runway at Glasgow;
- Considering a new terminal at Manchester;
- Considering runway extensions at Bristol, Leeds-Bradford, Liverpool and Newcastle;
- Expanding passenger numbers at Lydd (now London-Ashford!) Airport by a factor of 100;
- Encouraging increases in flight numbers at every airport to push them to their 'full capacity'

BAA own and operate seven of the UK's airports, including Heathrow and Gatwick, and are the main drive behind the expansion plans - placing themselves firmly in the 'premier league' of climate criminals.

They have consistently lied and deceived in their lobbying for expansion. During their push for a fifth terminal at Heathrow, they told the *Heathrow Times*, "BAA has said repeatedly that it was pressing for the Secretary of State for Transport to rule out a third runway. BAA has said repeatedly there will not be a third runway."

Haven't they've changed their tune? In fact they now host lobby group, *Future Heathrow*, at their West London offices to campaign full time for expansion.

As Chris Mullins, the former aviation minister explained, "*I learnt two things. First, that the demands of the aviation industry are insatiable. Second, that successive government have usually given way to them. Although nowadays the industry pays lip-service to the notion of sustainability, its demands are essentially unchanged. It wants more of everything - airports, runways, terminals.*"

That'll explain why then transport secretary, Alistair Darling, appeared in person to launch *Future Heathrow*, the group that was to lobby him!