

Worksheet

NAMES

Developing policy and putting it into action

Your group will be investigating the roles of the public service, the government and the Parliament. Read the following and think about the questions below. Be prepared to discuss your ideas with the class.

The Prime Minister and Cabinet have decided they want to develop a national transport network. The Minister for Transport has directed their government department to investigate this. As part of its report to the Cabinet, the department has suggested a plan to build an airport in a regional area just outside a capital city.

This is an agricultural area, with lots of fruit and vegetable farms. If the airport is built, some farmers will lose their land and the nation will lose access to produce grown and made in Australia. However, the development will mean increased employment which will help the local economy – jobs and businesses will thrive because more people will be working in the area.

Political pressure is growing from farmers, environmental groups and local residents who are protesting about the planned development. There is also pressure from business groups and tourist operators who want the airport to be built.

- The Prime Minister and Cabinet will need to decide whether this plan will go ahead. What things will they have to think about? (For example, they will have to consider the different groups of people who will be affected by building this new airport).
- The Parliament will need to decide whether or not to approve the idea, or change some details to ensure that this is the best plan for Australia. How will they do this? (For example, the Parliament could suggest that the plan be changed to encourage farmers in other areas to grow more fruit and vegetables to increase national supply).
- The Department of Transport will firstly advise the government on forming the plan. What advice might it give? (For example, it could advise the government to compensate, or pay, farmers for the land that will be taken.) If the plan is approved, how will the department put the plan into action? (For example, it could set up the timetable for reclaiming the land).