



Ministerial visits to AAPA

Clockwise from top: (L-R) Stephen Prowse (Wagga Wagga Airport Manager), Dale Hall (Rex Maintenance Control Manager), Warrick Lodge (GM Network Strategy & Sales), the Hon. Warren Truss (Shadow Minister for Infrastructure & Transport), Michael McCormack (Federal Member for Riverina), Kay Hull (Rex Ambassador), Chris Hine (Rex Chief Operating Officer & AAPA Chairman) and Geoff Cook (AAPA Chief Flying Instructor & GM Flight Operations); Chris Hine in discussion with Minister Crean at the Rex Hangar; Warren Truss and Michael McCormack in the flight simulator.

The Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA) recently had three special guests tour the campus facilities. The Hon. Simon Crean (Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government) and the Hon. Warren Truss (Leader of the National Party and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport) with Michael McCormack (Federal Member for Riverina) visited the Academy on 15 July 2011 and 26 July 2011 respectively.

Minister Crean was in Wagga Wagga to open a facility at the Charles Sturt University and also recognise a program in relation to the City Council. He took the opportunity to stop by the AAPA campus for a tour, as organised by the City Council.

Rex Chief Operating Officer and AAPA Chairman Chris Hine hosted the Minister together with Rex's GM Network Strategy and Sales, Warrick Lodge. A short introductory presentation was done including the facility's overview video to the Minister.

Minister Crean was very interested in what the campus has to offer and was complimentary of the modern facilities. He also had the opportunity to try his hand at the flight simulator. The tour adjourned to the Rex engineering

hangar where Rex Maintenance Control Manager, Dale Hall provided Minister Crean with some engineering insight. The hour-long tour thus ended with Minister Crean suitably impressed with what Rex and AAPA had to offer not only to the local community, but to the aviation industry in Australia on the whole.

Shadow Minister for Transport Warren Truss visited the Riverina area and also took the opportunity to stop by the AAPA campus for a tour. The tour, organised by Mr McCormack, was hosted by Chris Hine and Warrick Lodge and Rex Ambassador Kay Hull was also present. A discussion was held prior to the tour, which covered issues such as the carbon tax and other matters of importance to regional aviation as well as a short introduction to AAPA.

The tour of AAPA also saw Mr Truss and Mr McCormack test their skills in the simulator and some very good National Party teamwork saw them land safely at Wagga Wagga airport. The media was on hand to cover Mr Truss's visit and the tour wrapped up with media interviews being conducted with Mr Truss and Mr McCormack as well as Rex senior management. 🍷

