

OFFICIAL OPENING OF REX'S PILOT ACADEMY

rex.
Regional Express



The Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), a fully owned Rex subsidiary company, recently celebrated the official opening of its brand new \$12M Wagga Wagga based pilot training academy campus.

After commencing operations in Mangalore, Victoria in 2007, Regional Express (Rex) announced in April 2009 its intention to construct a state of the art pilot training academy at Wagga Wagga airport to take advantage of the excellent airport facilities, good flying conditions and close proximity to Rex's heavy maintenance base.

On 27th May 2010, The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government joined airline and community leaders to officially open the Academy.

Some of the many foreign and local guests who graced the occasion include Noreen Hay MP, Parliamentary Secretary, NSW Government, The Hon. Kay Hull MP, Member for Riverina, Daryl Macquire MP, Member for Wagga Wagga, Cr. Kerry Pascoe, Mayor, Wagga Wagga City Council, representatives of Airservices Australia, representatives of CASA, Safeskies, the Piper Board, Jeppesen, CAE and Saab.

The Minister congratulated Rex on its bold initiative and further announced the funding of \$1.1M to assist Wagga Wagga City Council with the implementation of an Instrument Landing System (ILS) which is a ground based instrument approach system that provides precision approach guidance to aircraft. This will have significant benefits for flight training and it will also have flow on benefits to the many regular passenger services to/from Wagga Wagga to both

Sydney and Melbourne when there are poor weather conditions such as low cloud and fog. This ambitious project will cost \$1.63M and will provide for will support 15 jobs within the local community.

AAPA provides many and varied benefits to the City that all stakeholders have much to be proud of. AAPA is playing a significant role in helping to drive Council's vision for Wagga Wagga to become a major Centre of Aviation Training. Combined with Rex's current facilities in Wagga Wagga, the City is set to become a magnet for other aviation-related activities and business opportunities, much like that which has occurred in Tamworth during recent decades. The Council-sponsored Working Group behind the concept of developing Wagga Wagga into an aviation training hub has acknowledged that the launching of the AAPA facility is a critical catalyst in advancing Council's vision.



The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP unveiling the opening plaque with Rex Managing Director and AAPA Chairman Jim Davis



The Hon. Kay Hull MP unveiling the signage of the Kay Hull Conference Room specially named after her with Rex Managing Director and AAPA Chairman Jim Davis

As AAPA grows beyond the immediate needs of supplying Rex with pilots to service the local regional and domestic air routes, it will look to train pilots for airlines from across the world to contribute to the broader supply of qualified pilots internationally. In doing so, AAPA opens up a vast range of opportunities such as tourism which will add to the economic stimulation in Wagga Wagga.



The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP all thumbs up for Rex and AAPA

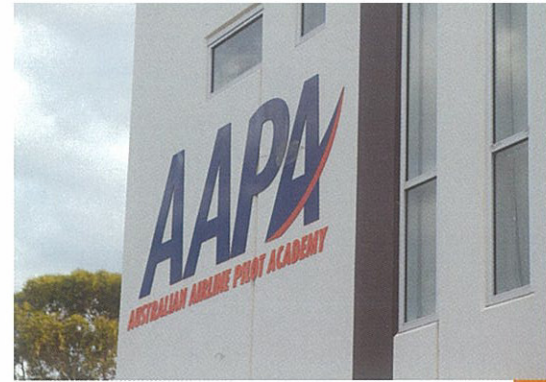
Already, the injection of \$12M for the construction of Phase 1 of the new AAPA facility has pumped millions of dollars into the local economy. The total investment into equipment and facilities for AAPA over a period of five years from 2009 to 2014 will be in excess of \$25M. In addition to indirect employment, AAPA will provide for up to 70 specialist jobs, pushing the Rex Group's total employment in the City to around 200. This will see Rex's current \$7M annual payroll exceed \$10M and the multiplier effect will pay large dividends to the City.

On the micro level, individuals aspiring to be pilots but who are impeded by the exorbitant cost of flying training can now realise their dreams with Rex and AAPA. Rex in partnership with AAPA launched the Rex Pilot Cadet Scheme in which a large portion of the cadets' training fees in AAPA are covered by Rex in return for a five-year commitment. The competitive course fees together with the world-class equipment

and facilities provided by AAPA also mean that these cadets get more than their money's worth of training at extremely high standards.

As can be seen, even though AAPA has been only recently established in November 2007 and only relocated to Wagga Wagga in April 2009, it has already made and will continue to make significant direct and indirect positive contributions on several fronts creating a commercial win-win for aspiring individuals, the local economy in Wagga Wagga, regional communities in Australia and the global aviation industry in general.

Rex is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 40 SAAB 340 aircraft on some 1,300 weekly flights to 35 destinations throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. The Rex Group comprises Regional Express, air freight and charter operator Pel-Air Aviation and



Dubbo-based regional airline Air Link, as well as Australian Airline Pilot Academy.

Rex is committed to the City of Wagga Wagga and this unique partnership is putting Wagga Wagga on the world map of aviation. We look forward to receiving your local support on one of Rex's regular services to both Sydney and Melbourne.

