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International flight training school coming to Maryborough airport

Maryborough will soon be home to up to 200 trainee pilots and more than 100 support staff with the establishment of a major air training facility at the city's airport.

Hong Kong-based Flight Training Group plans to build a college in Maryborough the same as the one it has operated in Adelaide since 1982.

When fully operational the centre, to be known as Flight Training Queensland, will house about 40 training aircraft and fly more than 38,000 training hours a year making use of facilities at Maryborough and Hervey Bay airports.

Maryborough Mayor Barbara Hovard said the school would benefit Maryborough economically and socially and would give the city world-wide exposure.

“In many respects it is similar to a university campus and college requiring similar services in terms of meals, accommodation administration, and other support which will provide numerous jobs for Maryborough people,” she said.

“It is so exciting to see something this major come to fruition after so much work.”

Cr Hovard said company executives would visit the school regularly taking their impression of Maryborough and the Fraser Coast back overseas and the pilots once trained would spread the word on the hospitality of our people.

“This is a good example of Maryborough and Hervey Bay working well together. Cr Sorensen and I visited Adelaide together offering facilities at both airports to maximise our chances of bringing the school here,” she said, “and that has obviously proved to be a successful team effort.”

Hervey Bay airport will provide facilities demanding different training procedures.

The project was announced today by Queensland Minister for State Development John Mickel.

He said the “greenfield” development would employ modern design principles to create an integrated campus incorporating operational buildings such as a hangar, classrooms, simulator section and flight operations with residential accommodation, dining and recreational facilities to cater for up to 200 students at any one time.

The development is expected to generate a wages bill of about \$7 million and an annual turnover of \$22 million.

Flight Training Group is a subsidiary of Young Brothers Aviation – a global aviation company with aviation interests in Europe, USA and Asia and long-term relationships with airlines such as Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Dragonair, China Airlines, Emirates, JAL Express, Vietnam Airlines and Air China – Zhejiang Company.

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