

CASE STUDY: AVIATION**AUSTRALIA ASIA FLIGHT TRAINING (AAFT) - LEADING WINGS ACADEMY CHOOSES NSW**

The clear skies over northern New South Wales (NSW) make it ideal to train pilots. Australia has major advantages in aviation training, with a strong safety record and higher level English-language requirements than the international standard.

Little fog, few clouds and low wind: the good weather over northern NSW is ideal for pilot training.

With almost no competing air traffic in many areas, student pilots spend less time waiting for their turn to take off and land. This allows a flight academy to gain maximum efficiency from its training fleet.

Australia Asia Flight Training (AAFT) is building a 600-student residential training academy at Glen Innes on the Northern Tablelands of NSW to train commercial pilots and aircraft maintenance technicians for the Asia Pacific region. The \$52 million academy will be the biggest flight training school in Australia.

AAFT is building student accommodation, dining and sports facilities, flight simulators, classrooms, flight briefing rooms and aircraft maintenance facilities.

AAFT affiliate Australian Wings Academy currently runs a leading flight training academy in Coolangatta, Queensland. Glen Innes was selected for the major expansion after a seven-year search for a location that could meet the standards required by the company.

CLOSE TO THE ASIA PACIFIC

An extra 192,300 pilots and 215,300 maintenance technicians will be needed in the Asia Pacific region in the next 20 years, according to aircraft manufacturer, Boeing. Australia's proximity to the Asia Pacific is a major advantage to help meet this need.

A director of AAFT, Neil Hansford, said Australia has a worldwide reputation for producing high-calibre pilots, not least because of the strict operating standards of Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority.



Artist's impression of the AAFT academy

ASSISTED BY NSW TRADE & INVESTMENT

NSW Trade & Investment has been with AAFT throughout the process:

- liaising with Glen Innes Severn Council to gain approval for this major development
- providing financial support through the Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF). The fund supports business investment in regional jobs. The grant will help Glen Innes Severn Council upgrade water, sewerage, power, road access, car parking, aircraft aprons and taxiways at Glen Innes Aerodrome.
- advising the Council on its ultimately successful application to the Australian Government's Regional Development Australia Fund.

www.australianwingsacademy.com



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