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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## \$4M AVIATION STUDENT ACCOMMODATION COMPLEX OPENS AT ARCHERFIELD AIRPORT

Pilot training in Queensland received a major boost today with the opening of a \$4 million Aviation Student Accommodation Complex (ASAC) at Archerfield Airport.

Queensland's Assistant Minister for Planning Reform, Rob Molhoek, officially opened the fully refurbished, two-storey building at 9 Grenier Drive. A first for the airport, the complex will accommodate up to 40 aviation students and support a major growth sector at Archerfield. Currently, 10 airport tenants conduct pilot training and aviation-related courses – and the provision of modern onsite accommodation for interstate and overseas aviation students will establish Archerfield as one of Australia's key flight training centres.

General Manager of Archerfield Airport, Mr Corrie Metz, announced that Basair Aviation College would lease and manage the complex. Basair is a leader in aviation flight training. It is Australia's largest flying school, operating a fleet of 70 aircraft across three locations — Bankstown, Cessnock and its new Archerfield campus. Basair boasts world-class flight training and has successful alumni flying in more than 40 countries.

As well as personal accommodation and breakout study areas, the complex includes a purpose-built viewing platform offering 360 degree views of the surrounding airspace. This facility allows students to observe circuit traffic whilst listening to radio communications. The ASAC also features a commercial kitchen, dining and lounge rooms, with four ground floor offices.

"The ASAC will be a major hub for aviation activities," Mr Metz said. "Archerfield is already Queensland's leading flight training centre, and this complex has met a strong demand for quality, affordable onsite accommodation. Archerfield can now offer a new level of service associated with pilot training at the airport."

The initiative was included in the *Archerfield Airport Master Plan 2011-31* and reflects Archerfield Airport Corporation's vision for the ongoing development of the airport into a world-class aviation facility. In addition, the Corporation is upgrading existing infrastructure to improve its market share for pilot training. Earlier this year, Movement Area Guidance Signs were installed beside the major runways and taxiways to assist trainee pilots conduct ground operations, and AAC plans to enhance existing grass runways by relocating them away from flood-prone areas.

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