
MEDIA RELEASE

3 September 2020

Darwin Aviation Training Academy Feasibility Report released

A feasibility report for a proposed aviation training academy in Darwin was released to the public today, and launched at an industry event at Darwin Airport's Catalina Lounge on Wednesday afternoon.

The report summarises findings from Deloitte and ISACNT 2019 feasibility study for an aviation training academy and presents a scalable approach to the establishment of an academy in the Northern Territory.

Deloitte has worked with the Industry Skills Advisory Council Northern Territory (ISACNT) and engaged stakeholders across the aerospace industry, including Northern Territory Airports, to establish an industry-led approach to advanced trade skilling and development in the Territory.

A group of government and local stakeholders attended yesterday's report launch, while a range of interstate industry colleagues enjoyed a live stream of the event, all keen to hear from the panel discussing the report findings.

Lead Partner of Deloitte NT Karen Green said that despite the current challenges presented by COVID-19 the aviation and aerospace industry is still expected to undertake significant growth in the next decade.

"We all talk about how we have to reduce our dependence on FIFO, the Darwin Aviation Skills Centre is an enabler for this. It trains our people here rather than sending them interstate and means they are more likely to stay in the NT," Green said.

"Our findings suggest there is demand for the development of a skilled workforce to support industry needs particularly in the defence, aeromedical and remote charter services industry. There also is an opportunity for international aviation training."

Debbie Paylor General Manager of Industry Skills Advisory Council Northern Territory said a skills centre in Darwin would drive economic growth in the Territory.

"An aviation training academy in Darwin would not only drive economic growth but also contribute to building stronger regional capability and help to retain population for the Territory," Paylor said.

NT Airports CEO Tony Edmondstone said NT Airports is supportive of the growth of the aviation and aerospace industry in the Territory.

"The Northern Territory is made up of many remote regions and aviation is key to connecting us all. We are supportive of this step in assisting the future growth and sustainability of the aviation and aerospace industry," Mr Edmondstone said.

The full report can be viewed at: <https://www.isacnt.org.au/NT-industries/aviation>.

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About NT Airports

Northern Territory Airports Pty Ltd owns Darwin International Airport, Alice Springs Airport and Tennant Creek Airport. Airport Development Group (ADG) is the parent company of the group.

ADG is almost entirely owned by superannuation funds through two Australian companies: IFM Investors (77.4%) and Palisade Investment Partners Limited (22.6%). Membership of these superannuation funds include almost 70,000 Territorians.

As one of the NT's largest employers, we employ over 80 full-time employees and contract many other personnel to provide key airport services. Together with our airline customers, we handled over 2.4 million arriving, departing and transit passengers, and the combination of all of the on airport and off- airport businesses that support them contribute over 1.5% of the Gross State Product of the Northern Territory. We employ over 1600 people when including our airline customers.

Our website is darwinairport.com.au