



# Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

## MEDIA RELEASE

19 April, 2018

### QANTAS PILOT TRAINING COLLEGE

Tasmanian Liberal Senator Richard Colbeck has called on the Tasmanian State Government to take the lead in coordinating submissions to Qantas for their proposed Pilot Training College.

Tasmania has the unique opportunity to be the only bid that has a whole of State approach with the backing of the State Government behind one proposal. Qantas has indicated that there are up to 30 expressions of interest so far, meaning that competition will be fierce, but it will be difficult for other State Governments to support just one bid.

It is important to note that this proposal from Tasmania is not just about Devonport, with the college utilising facilities around the State, including Burnie, West Coast, East Coast, Bass Strait Islands as well as Launceston and Hobart.

The coordinating capacity of the resources of the State Government will be vital and the Airport is in effect a state asset through its ownership of TasPorts.

Senator Colbeck said there has been excellent work done to date by Devonport Airport, the DCCI and others however, given the project will require some State support, leadership from the State Government simply makes sense.

“Broad political support for the project is obviously welcome but it will take more than that to prepare a successful bid, it is a significant project,” Senator Colbeck said.

“A strong, coordinated message supporting the best possible bid is the best chance of success. We can't afford a scatter gun approach.”

“As Minister for International Education I saw firsthand the value that can be created for communities that are offering education services. With the right approach there is the opportunity for Devonport Airport to be a major hub for pilot training, supporting both Qantas and Par Avion training colleges.”

This project would make Tasmania a major destination for a training service in which Australia has a very strong reputation globally and could make a significant contribution to the economy.

National figures indicate that students studying away from home generate about 2.4 visitations from family/relatives per year and this college also creates the opportunity to increase tourist visitation.

Hobart, Launceston and Burnie all host significant educational institutions that are an important part of their economies and here is a chance to create another.

“With the goodwill that currently exists there is an opportunity for the State to put together a focussed task force that enables Tasmania to be in the best position to be successful with its bid and create a new economic driver for Tasmania.”

ENDS

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Authorised By Liberal Senator for Tasmanian, Richard Colbeck, Devonport.