

Media Release

For Immediate Release – 30.7.20

Council and Amber Aviation close to finalising Corowa Aerodrome lease negotiations

At its monthly Council meeting on Thursday 30 July, Federation Council received an update on advanced negotiations between Council and Amber Aviation in respect to the long-term lease for management of the Corowa Aerodrome.

Following a successful expression of interest process, Council previously resolved to enter into an agreement to lease with Amber Aviation Academy to establish a state of the art, leading edge Aviation Training Facility in Corowa at the Aerodrome.

Amber Aviation Academy is a certified flight-training academy that educates and trains Commercial and Recreational Pilots and proposes to also facilitate Cabin Crew, Ground Support Crew, Aviation Engineers and Technicians from the Corowa facility as the business develops over time.

With nationally accredited and internationally recognised qualifications, Amber offers an individualized training experience focusing on personal learning outcomes.

Federation Council Mayor Pat Bourke said the Corowa Aerodrome proposal is an exciting long-term project, aimed at creating employment and training opportunities, as well as providing an anticipated economic boost to the region.

“Council continues to work closely with Amber Aviation to finalise an agreement to lease the Corowa Aerodrome Facility,” Mayor Bourke said.

“Given the longevity of the lease, both parties are working diligently to ensure appropriate consideration is given to all existing assets, and future commitments within the lease. The aviation space continues to be changing at rapid speeds and I am pleased that Council continues to work so well with Amber to ensure the best efforts of both parties are aligned to achieve a long term economically sustainable future for the Corowa Aerodrome.”

Amber Aviation Group Chief Executive Officer Mahendra Naidu said the company looks forward with anticipation to the finalisation of the lease negotiations.

“Once the lease is finalised, Amber’s focus will be on fulfilling its goal for the region of Corowa in developing an entire self-sustaining aviation ecosystem,” Mr Naidu said.

“Our planned expansion will eventually create over 150 new jobs, comprising of flight instructors, trainers and assessors, engineers, managerial staff, administrative staff and support staff. For Amber to be able to partner with Federation Council to deliver a facility that will be able to develop the next generation of pilots and support staff is such an exciting step forward and one we are immensely proud of.”

A further Council report on the lease negotiations is expected to be presented to Council in the near future.

Ends.

In November 2018 Council conducted an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process to identify a suitable tenant for a long term Lease to develop, market, operate and maintain the Corowa Aerodrome as an airport. In December 2018 Council selected Amber Aviation from this process, and since then have been progressing negotiations. The aerodrome is now largely used for general aviation operations, supporting a small number of resident aircraft, which are mostly housed in small privately-owned hangars built on land leased from Council. There is one small scale (RA Aus level) flying training operator based on site. In any new lease and management, the facility will remain open to public aviation also as it is currently.