



Speech by

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Hansard Tuesday, 7 August 2007

AVIATION INDUSTRY; DEATH OF HON. TJ BURNS AO

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (10.29 pm): The Queensland aviation industry is flying high. Whether it is civil or military aviation, there is a wealth of opportunities being given to Queenslanders. They range from head offices to heavy maintenance, from training to manufacturing, research and development and a focus on developing further this growing industry. Already I have met two young men from the Springwood electorate who are participating in this industry through their studies and work experience placements.

I have spoken in this House before about the leadership of Springwood State High School in this field. It is a leading school in aerospace studies and that is having a real impact. Springwood State High School aerospace studies students have had the opportunity to visit Aviation Australia. I, too, have had this wonderful experience and I know that, like me, they were amazed at the facilities and the success of the industry. Aviation Australia at the Brisbane airport is offering opportunities in aircraft maintenance engineering—avionics, structures and mechanical. They also offer an internationally recognised diploma of aircraft maintenance engineering. They offer world-class training in flight attendant training. People are coming from all over the world to participate in the cabin crew training.

I am very proud to say that Aviation Australia was a Queensland government project that commenced in January 2001. In five years it has grown to be the leading provider of aviation vocational training in Australia. It has established a global brand and is recognised as one of the world leaders in its field. I want to congratulate Springwood State High School on recognising this industry as a real opportunity for its students to obtain jobs and to obtain training and studies for careers for the future.

Last week I was fortunate enough to visit the school's aerospace studies block and see its classroom in action. The students had been studying in an interactive program flying a plane and landing at Brisbane airport. On the day that I was invited to visit the classroom not only did they have an interactive computer program; they also had a flight simulator. The simulator was a replica of a cockpit with all the dials, buttons and rudders and had a screen in front of the windscreen that showed what it would look like flying over Brisbane city, or what the terrain is like flying a certain flight path. While the student—that is the trainee pilot—is in the simulator flying, their actions are being recorded on a computer program that is printed out for them at the end of the flight to analyse their results. Their flight and actions are also being screened back into the classroom for students to critique and learn from.

One particular flight path that all students undertook was taking off, circling and landing at Brisbane airport. At the time I visited the school only one student had landed the plane successfully and I am pleased to say that it was a female student. I was also offered the opportunity to fly. With no flying lessons, interactive or otherwise, I had to take off, circle and land at Brisbane airport. Although I had a lot of help from the training officer, I managed to land the plane on the grass next to the runway. However, I am pleased to say that it landed safely. What a great activity and what a great learning experience for those students. I applaud Springwood State High School for recognising this industry.

I want to take what time is left for me to recognise the passing of Tom Burns. Like many members in this place I, too, have wonderful fond memories of Tom going back to when I was 16 years of age and

joined the Labor Party. Tom turned up at a branch meeting and gave us all a big talk about how bad Woolies was and how it sacked all young kids. I came from a Woolies family—everyone in my family worked at Woolies—so I was quite shocked at this. I had to tell him that I actually had a job at Woolies from the age of 14. Being 16 years old, I knew it all.

I also have many other memories. I want to say that my most recent memories of travelling in Vietnam with Tom showed me the tremendous generosity and compassion that this man had. Tom Burns was a true believer. He was a legend and he will be sadly missed.