



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

---

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Rockhampton Electorate, Alliance Airlines**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.14 pm): Last week I had the pleasure of having the Treasurer and Minister for Investment, the Hon. Cameron Dick, in Rockhampton announcing that Alliance Airlines would establish a facility to maintain its growing fleet of aircraft that are currently being maintained overseas. This is an absolute win for Rockhampton. The new \$60 million aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul facility will be constructed at the Rockhampton Airport with support from the Palaszczuk government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. This will mean local jobs. In addition to administration positions and apprenticeships, there will be 81 highly skilled aircraft maintenance engineers. These are good-paying, permanent jobs for Rocky.

There will also be approximately 125 construction jobs in building the new hangar, which will include three bays and be 130 metres wide, 16 metres tall and 65 metres deep, with construction expected to commence in the next few months. I am sure there will be other flow-on industries that will be establishing themselves in Rockhampton. These are jobs, real jobs, for our region.

Alliance continue to grow, from resources based operations to conventional passenger and freight services, and they will see their aircraft fleet expand from 43 to 75 planes over the next 12 months. They also operate flights on behalf of most of Australia's largest airlines and deliver services all over mainland Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand and have a current full-time equivalent staff of 820. As reported in the *Morning Bulletin*, when Alliance were looking at doing their fleet maintenance in Australia, the choice was narrowed down to a location in Queensland as the company are already based in the Sunshine State. This then led to Rockhampton being chosen. Alliance managing director Scott McMillan said—

This airport is owned by the council—

that is, the Rockhampton Regional Council—

so we are talking to the owners, rather than having to talk to the commonwealth if we did this in a capital city.

Alliance needed an airport that was not on the coast, and Rockhampton is unique in that it is the largest airport in Queensland that is not on the coast. They are going to have aircraft that will sit on the ground for a while so they need to be in an area where there is a non-saline environment. This is a great win for Rockhampton. It is another jobs bonanza.