

Question on Notice

No. 367

Asked on Thursday, 22 March 2018

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent Qantas announcement regarding the establishment of a pilot training academy in regional Queensland which will generate jobs and significant economic benefits to a regional centre and given that Mareeba Airport is a leading contender and meets the criteria for the pilot training academy—

Will the Minister confirm that the government is focusing its support for the training academy to be based at Mareeba Airport?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hill for the question.

On 22 February 2018, Qantas announced that it will establish a 'Qantas Group Pilot Academy' to train up to 500 pilots a year. Qantas indicated in its press release that the academy '... is likely to be established near an existing airfield in regional Australia to provide easy access to uncongested airspace'.

While I am advised that preliminary discussions have been held with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, I understand that Qantas is yet to confirm detailed criteria or requirements for a suitable location.

Like the Member, I hope Qantas, which has a rich history with Queensland, recognises the many benefits regional Queensland would offer this training academy.