



MAYORAL MINUTE: Police Training Facility

AUTHOR: Mayor
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To the Council
Ladies and Gentlemen

Office of the Mayor
Civic Administration Building
Church Street, Dubbo

This morning Dubbo Regional Council CEO Michael McMahon and I had the privilege of attending the announcement of an exciting new \$35 million police training centre at the Dubbo City Regional Airport.

Announced by the Minister for Police and Member for Dubbo Troy Grant, and the Assistant Commissioner and Western Region Commander Geoff McKechnie, the new facility will allow police officers from across the Western Region to travel to Dubbo for advanced training.

Included in the plans are lecture rooms, a state-of-the-art pistol range and a building to simulate Active Armed Offender scenario training.

It will dramatically reduce the amount of time police officers have to spend away from their jobs and their families for their mandatory training.

Along with the Rural Fire Service training facility, this will result in approximately 100 emergency service and police personnel in Dubbo for training every week, a boost of close to 5000 people coming to the city every year.

The Dubbo City Regional Airport was chosen as a venue because of the great connectivity. These police officers will come from all over the Western Region, an area that encompasses 65 per cent of the state, and by being located right at the airport, some officers will have the option of flying in directly, especially as Dubbo looks to expand the number of locations in Western NSW it flies to.

Because its location right next door to the RFS training facility, it will also be able to utilize and share the 100-bed accommodation that will be constructed as part of that project.

Council has provided the land for the project, and Mr Grant acknowledged the role Council played in being able to bring the project to Dubbo.

NSW Police have welcomed the announcement, saying it will save them time and money, and will also allow them to tailor training to officers about issues relevant within this region including rural crime and emergency management.

From a Council perspective, the economic benefit during both construction and operation of the training centre are a tremendous boost to the local economy. It is also an extension of the Emergency Service precinct that is emerging at Dubbo City Regional Airport. As well as the RFS training centre, there is also the State Emergency Service and Volunteer Rescue Association joint facility, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service aeromedical facility.

I would like to thank the NSW Government and Mr Grant and congratulate them on the announcement of the police training centre. I look forward to the fantastic impact this facility will have on the Dubbo Region once it is constructed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information contained within the Mayoral Minute dated 25 February 2019 be noted.

Councillor Ben Shields
Mayor