

Aerospace careers ready for takeoff in Queensland

- **Toowoomba and Surat Basin schools learn more on preparation and opportunities for aviation careers**

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Queensland's growing aerospace industry is set to offer a range of career opportunities for school leavers within the next decade, with aviation leaders and principals coming together to discuss study pathways in Toowoomba.

“With many of Boeing Australia's key programs in Queensland, including the final assembly for the Airpower Teaming System at Wellcamp by 2025, there is a growing need to fill essential aviation roles – from production line staff, maintenance staff, engineers, and more,” said Paul Watson, director of Aerospace Engineering and Production, Boeing Australia.

Education representatives and career influencers from Toowoomba and Surat Basin public and private schools attended the information session at Wellcamp Airport to learn more about the forward-learning talent pipeline initiative from Boeing, TAE Aerospace, Qantas and University of Southern Queensland, Defence Jobs Queensland, and the Department of State Development.

Boeing Australia has supported the Aerospace Gateway to Industry Schools program since it was established in 2004 through a partnership between the Queensland Government and Aviation Australia. Since then, the program has now evolved and grown with over 20 high schools partnering with industry to deliver Aerospace experiences.

“This program has allowed Boeing to inspire the future generation of innovators by showcasing the diverse opportunities within our advancing industry, and we are committed to playing our part in creating the skills pathways necessary for supporting a range of sustainable jobs into the future,” said Watson.

Natalie Ryan, project manager of the Aerospace Gateway to Industry Schools program said that more regional schools were being encouraged to join the secondary schools already involved in the program, and to gain the benefit of practical, real-world industry content applied into an accessible program for students and their teachers.

“We work collaboratively with schools, our industry partners, tertiary, and training providers to ensure there is a strong industry focus to support the future employment of young people in the industry.

“Our participating schools are actively engaged and partnered with local aerospace businesses, they offer dedicated aerospace subjects and contextualised aerospace-learning experiences across the curriculum,” said Ryan.

The Queensland Government's long-term vision to support the growth of the aerospace industry and sustainable jobs also underpins the investment in the Aerospace Gateway to Industry schools program.

Minister for Training and Skills Development Di Farmer said the Queensland Government's investment in the Aerospace Gateway schools program supports its long-term vision to grow the aerospace industry.

"The aerospace industry plays a vital role supporting Queensland's tourism sector and logistics network and there are a range of roles that keep aircraft flying as well as emerging opportunities in defence, space and drone technologies," said Minister Farmer.

"Engaging with teachers, career and guidance counsellors and students to promote the career paths in aerospace is vital to attracting and developing a skilled workforce that will help this industry continue to grow.

"The Queensland Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan 2018-2028 was recently updated and highlights the actions and programs that are already delivering results and our next priorities in this evolving sector."

More information on the Aerospace Gateway Schools program is available at:
<https://aerospacegatewayschools.com.au/>