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MEDIA RELEASE

AEROSPACE PRECINCT FOR TOWNSVILLE AIRPORT

The Queensland Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations the Honourable John Mickel MP announced today plans for the development of a fully serviced, high security aerospace precinct to compliment existing aviation services at Townsville Airport.

The *Northern Australia Aerospace Centre of Excellence* (NAACEX) will boast a high tech aerospace precinct and business park that will significantly grow the aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul industry in Townsville.

And Worland Aviation Pty Ltd a major one-stop shop for aircraft painting and maintenance services will relocate their operation from NSW and take up residence in NAACEX late in 2007.

A significant development of both national and international scale, NAACEX will see the creation of a cluster of aerospace and supply industries together with commercial interests deemed catalysts for interest in future developments.

Managing Director of Queensland Airports Limited, Dennis Chant said the Centre and Worland Aviation's development was a major coup that would contribute significantly to the economic and employment opportunities of the region.

"This precinct will accommodate a variety of commercial industries in a state of the art premium quality secured aerospace precinct.

"This is a very exciting and innovative development for Townsville with its proximity to air, sea and land a major attraction that will undoubtedly encourage national and international investment," he said.

"We have already enjoyed great interest in the development and expect it will ultimately foster partnerships with the Defence Force and the Commonwealth Government and possibly attract more international and domestic flights as aircraft come for maintenance.

Queensland Minister for State Development John Mickel welcomed the announcement.

"This is great news for Townsville and for the diversification of the local aviation industry," he said.

"For example, Worland will bring expertise previously unavailable in the region and help to build an even stronger and more highly skilled local workforce.

"I hope other firms will follow Worland Aviation's lead and invest in this important regional centre," Mr Mickel said.

Stage one of NAACEX will include Worland Aviation plus additional hangar sites in a high security precinct and a large area of serviced sites for aerospace and airport support industries.

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