



World-class simulator a feather in Rex's cap

BY BRODIE OWEN

THE Australian Airline Pilot Academy has signalled a new era in its operations after the opening of a flight simulator designed to improve passenger safety.

Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said the simulator, operated by Regional Express (Rex), which has its home base in Wagga, is a win for regional Australia.

■ Continued Page 4

FLYING HIGH: Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and member for Riverina Michael McCormack trial Regional Express's new flight simulator at the Australian Airline Pilot Academy in Wagga.

Picture: Les Smith



FOR PASSENGER SAFETY: Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss says a new flight simulator at the Australian Airline Pilot Academy adds a new dimension Rex's operations in regional Australia.

Picture: Les Smith

Academy simulator a major coup for airline

■ From Front Page

Speaking at an official opening yesterday, Mr Truss said the simulator put downward pressure on the cost of training the academy's cadets.

"It's very expensive to fly around in a fully fledged aircraft," he said.

The Saab 340 simulator, which is designed to replicate Rex's aircraft fleet, will test the cadets' flying tech-

niques and ability to handle in-flight emergencies.

"It provides that experience without ever having to leave the ground," Mr Truss said.

"So if ever a critical situation arrives in real life, they are able to respond.

"It's a great deal of confidence in regional Australia."

Rex flight operations general

manager Neville Howell said the simulator was a "major accomplishment" for the regional airline.

Mr Howell said Rex had invested \$28.5 million in the academy to date with 124 graduates since 2007.

"The simulator will add considerably to Wagga's reputation as a leader in pilot training," he said.

The unveiling of the simulator

comes after the government recently approved Sydney's second airport at Badgerys Creek.

Mr Truss said the second airport would present new opportunities for the airline when it was completed some time after 2016.

"Maybe for not too much longer you will need to add the experience of adding Badgerys Creek (to the flight simulator)," he said.