



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NEWCASTLE'S SKILLS RECOGNISED IN AIRBUS DECISION**

The Federal Member for Newcastle has today welcomed the announcement by Jetstar that the maintenance work on its new fleet of Airbus A320s would be carried out in Newcastle.

The decision is expected to create around 50 extra jobs in the region, as well as securing the future of 82 workers already servicing Jetstar's Boeing 717s.

Ms Grierson said that the decision was a win for the collaborative approach to the region's development by groups such as Newcastle Airport, the business community, the education sector and commuters. "I also commend Jetstar and Qantaslink for their genuine commitment to employment and skills development in the region," Ms Grierson said.

"This decision recognises and protects Newcastle's excellent skills base, and the synergies created with our RAAF base and aerospace industry will continue to build that skills capacity towards a critical mass."

"I would particularly like to draw attention to the role of the Hunter Institute of TAFE, which has been prepared to respond to the demand for new aero-space related skills by expanding its courses and resources, as well as our other education providers and training facilities for their role in maintaining the region's skills base," Ms Grierson said.

A shortage of skilled workers has been repeatedly cited – most recently by the Reserve Bank of Australia – as one of the main issues holding back the potential of Australia's economy.

"Despite the lack of investment in the region by the Federal Government, the Jetstar decision again recognises Newcastle as a skills leader at the forefront of economic activity in this country," Ms Grierson concluded.

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