

# Consultants arrive to begin Airport Plan

Council has engaged a firm of consultants to undertake a Masterplan for future development of Narrabri Shire airport. The consultants, Rehbein Airport Consulting, will present a report to the Shire Council on the projected needs of the airport for decades to come in the light of likely growth.

"We will look at what facilities will be needed to accommodate future growth and expansion" explained Associate National Manager, Aviation, Ben Hargeaves. "We will be assessing economic and infrastructure aspects."

"Part of the study is looking at the changing economic dynamics and

ways in which we can maximise those in the period and the physical facilities required to accommodate possible growth.

"We are talking to Council and Council staff and industry stakeholders to get their input."

"This is a fact finding mission to speak to a

broad and representative group.

"We will come back with an assessment on initial proposals and talk further to the stakeholders."

The report to council should be made in the first quarter of 2011.

The Shire Council voted at last meeting to To page 3

## Airport planners begin their study

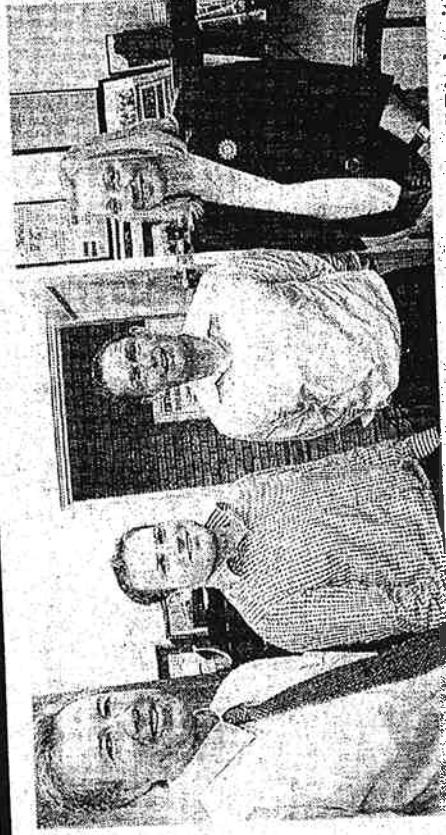
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accept a \$60,000 tender for the Airport Master Plan consultancy.

The Mayor Cr. Faber has made the airport improvement and maximisation of its capabilities a personal goal.

Cr. Faber is keen to see an industrial precinct established on the land around the airport because of its flood-free features and the fact that it is 'on the right side of it' to service the mining industry.

Councillors also noted with interest the volume of passengers which use the Emerald and Roma airports on their 'fact finding mission' earlier this year.

Emerald has 80,000 passengers through its airport each year and the



From left, Narrabri Shire Economic Development Manager, Bill Birch, with aviation consultants from Rehbein Airport Consulting Michael Ward, Ben Hargeaves and Jane Stinton.

facility is a significant revenue earner for the Council there.

Parking fees have been suggested, with a fenced compound to be built.

"At Roma they charge a dollar a night, repre-

senting a useful revenue stream for their Council" the deputy Mayor, Cr. Kelly noted after the Queensland tour.

Narrabri airport terminal has long been seen as inadequate as an entrance to a dynamic

Shire and there are some interim improvements to the building in the pipeline.