

Environmental Planners helping an ailing industry take off again.

Second year and postgraduate environmental planning students at Griffith University are helping to redefine what planning is all about.

In recent years general aviation – which embraces a range of activities including pilot training schools, charter flights, repairs and transport - has experienced a downturn both globally and in Australia due to a range of factors including rising aircraft production costs. In Australia, this decline may have been exacerbated by factors like higher user lease charges following privatization of aerodromes, and rising costs attributable to regulation.

Archerfield Aerodrome, Brisbane's premier general aviation airport, has not escaped the downturn. For example, in the 1970s over 1000 planes operated from the Aerodrome, but now the figure is around 200. This year environmental planning students in the Development Processes Studio are preparing a Plan for the revitalization and redevelopment of Archerfield aerodrome, Brisbane and for the promotion of general aviation at the aerodrome. The Plan is being prepared for Fly Archerfield, a not-for-profit organization operating with funding from Brisbane City Council, The Queensland State Department of Development and Innovation and the Federal Department of Transport (DOTAS). The Organization's mission is to find ways to promote aviation interests and, in particular, to promote general aviation at Archerfield Aerodrome. The Organization's membership includes various present users of the Aerodrome such as the flying schools. The airport was privatized in 1998 and is owned by the Archerfield Airport Corporation which has been receiving considerable press coverage lately concerning its draft Master Plan for the Airport.

The course is taught by Eddo Coiacetto of the Griffith University School of Environmental Planning with the assistance of Amanda Clark and Pazit Taygfeld and guest speakers. According to Eddo, the Plans will aim to be a model of sustainable development. The project highlights the diversity of tasks to which environmental planning skills and processes can be applied.



Paul Jeffree takes control of the project while Alex Creet sets the course at Archerfield Aerodrome



Business Development Manager of Fly Archerfield, Emery Williams, and students Emma Coutts and Annette Cupitt consider how to get Archerfield flying again.