

# Academy to occupy tradies

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ALBURY building firm Zauner Construction has won the job of building the \$10 million Regional Express (Rex) pilot academy at Wagga.

But of the windfall, company founder Garry Zauner said he would turn to using sub-contractors and tradespeople from Wagga for the project where possible.

"We always prefer to use Wagga people (in Wagga) where they are available, that is a given," Mr Zauner said yesterday.

"The civil engineer on site and the concreter on site are from Wagga.

"We have been building in Wagga for more than 50 years."

Some of Zauner's notable projects in Wagga include the RAAF Base upgrade,

Wagga High School extensions and construction of Charles Sturt University's veterinary sciences building.

Rex general manager of network strategy Warrick Lodge said the airline's board gave Zauner the construction contract because the company had successfully completed a separate contract for designing the academy.

"We were happy with Zauner in the design phase and at the May board meeting, it was decided to award Zauner the construction contract," Mr Lodge said.

Companies from Wagga, Griffith and Albury were considered for the project.

The Wagga planning panel approved an application for the academy on June 15 and work has already started at the Forest Hill airport site.

"The project will inject a lot of money into Wagga," Mr Lodge said.