

Source: ABC News, 15 Feb 13

Rex blasts council over airport security

Regional Express says security issues at the Dubbo airport could be solved by the local council.

X-ray equipment for luggage and a new passenger screening point are being installed at the airport to meet security requirements for bigger planes QantasLink will introduce later this year.

The Deputy Premier, Andrew Stoner, has told the ABC he will be appealing to the Federal Government on behalf of council to make regulations more flexible, so passengers on smaller planes do not have to be screened.

However, REX says it has written to council four times saying only passengers on new larger planes need to be screened.

Warwick Lodge from REX says at other regional airports, like Wagga and Albury, passengers on smaller planes are not put through the security measures.

"There isn't any requirement to lobby the Federal Government in relation to making those arrangements more flexible.

"What this comes down to is Dubbo City Council making a decision to screen both the REX services and the QantasLink services and importantly to impose those charges on both REX and QantasLink, which we believe is unfair."

Mr Lodge from REX says the council is being misleading.

"This latest comment in the press made by Andrew Stoner, is just another example of Dubbo City Council misleading stakeholders in believing what's happening there at Dubbo City Council is simply required by law, which is not actually the case."