



19 December 2012

Clr Mathew Dickerson
Mayor of the City of Dubbo
Dubbo City Council

Sent by e-mail: mayor@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dubbo City Regional Airport – Security Screening

Dear Mayor Dickerson,

Rex's position regarding airport security is that Regional airports should follow the prescribed law as determined by the Office of Transport and Security (OTS). Rex's aircraft do not require passenger or baggage screening due to being under the Maximum Take Off Weight (MTOW) threshold of 20,000kg as prescribed by OTS.

Further to my letter of 24 October and 16 November regarding security arrangements at Dubbo airport, I can confirm that following the Regional Industry Consultative Meeting (RICM) on 12 November 2012 (as attended by your airport manager Lindsay Mason), that the amendments to the Aviation Transport Security Regulations 4.02 – Meaning of Screened Air Service, have now been implemented by OTS with immediate effect.

Regulation 4.02 was amended to allow other categories of security controlled airports to achieve the prescribed aviation security outcomes through local arrangements (regulation 3.04) which ensure the segregation of screened and unscreened people and other things. The referenced regulation 3.04 relates to ensuring that there are control measures in place to facilitate the unscreened and screened departures as prescribed in regulation 4.02.

As you are aware, the facilitation of unscreened and screened passengers has been in effect at other regional airports such as Albury and Wagga Wagga since July 2012. These formal amendments to the Aviation Transport Security Regulations (4.02) are very important as the regulations now cater for the facilitation of unscreened and screened flights operating in parallel, which by default negates the requirement of the 30 minute regulatory screening window attached to the screening point for screened services for aircraft above the prescribed 20,000kg MTOW.

Rex currently operates a Rex network topping 92 weekly aircraft movements through Dubbo airport. This provides a superior level of flight frequency and schedule convenience that is not matched by Rex anywhere in its network of 31 regional ports.

Given this backdrop, the residents and visitors of Dubbo (and surrounding region) would surely not accept an outcome whereby they not only need to endure unnecessarily the inconvenient security screening but also the increased cost of travel. And all this arises from one solitary flight per day by our competitor that exceeds the 20,000kg MTOW threshold. Rex too will not accept this position.

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Should Dubbo City Council choose to adopt something other than what the regulators prescribe, Rex will oppose any attempt to arbitrarily distort the competitive equilibrium by imposing on Rex's customer's additional charges and inconveniences that are not mandated by law. Rex will challenge such decisions which prejudice smaller regional carriers via the ACCC on the grounds of unfair, anti competitive and unconscionable conduct by Dubbo Airport.

For your information, two other regional airports, Mildura and Port Lincoln, have decided to maintain screening for all passengers however the security screening charges will only be borne the services that legally require the screening. (i.e. flight departures that above the 20,000kg MTOW threshold)

We await council's final decision on this matter so that we can begin our legal challenge and also our communications to the local community on the absurdity of such a decision.

I wish you a Merry Christmas.

Yours Sincerely

Warrick J Lodge.

Warrick Lodge
Manager, Network Strategy & Sales
Regional Express (Rex)

