

## 19 AUGUST 2022

## MEDIA RELEASE

## **REX LANDS IN DEVONPORT**

Travellers have embraced Rex's new Melbourne-Devonport route with the airline reporting strong forward bookings for flights across Bass Strait.

The inaugural service touched down in Devonport this morning to be greeted by a traditional water cannon welcome and a host of dignitaries.

The aircraft's 8.10am arrival - 10 minutes ahead of schedule - also heralded the return of competition and the breaking of the Qantas monopoly on the route. The twice-daily weekday service, enabling day return travel in both directions, has fares from an affordable \$149 each way.

The Tasmanian Premier, the Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP, was joined by Rex Deputy Chairman, the Hon. John Sharp AM and the Chief Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Ports Corporation (TasPorts), Anthony Donald.

Devonport Mayor, Annette Rockliff, and Latrobe Mayor, Peter Freshney, also took part in the inaugural celebrations.

"We are delighted to once again be able to offer competitive airfares, reliable services and user-friendly schedules to the long suffering and neglected communities of northern Tasmania who for far too long have been forced to pay exorbitant prices," Mr Sharp said.

Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff hailed the airline's return to Devonport, which Rex and its predecessor Kendell Airlines serviced from Melbourne between 1989 and 2005.

Premier Rockliff said: "This is a fantastic vote of confidence in Tasmania's strong tourism industry, especially for the North West and surrounding regions."

"The direct flights will provide more options for travellers and additional capacity to meet demand and has been warmly welcomed by the Tasmanian community, tourism and business operators.

"Tasmania's tourism industry is one of our greatest success stories with nearly 300,000 visitors to the State in April, May and June, and the highest spend for any June quarter on record.

"These new flights will maintain this momentum and further encourage visitation to the North West and surrounding regions, ensuring the benefits are spread into our regional areas."

Devonport is Rex's third destination in Tasmania as the airline already operates frequent services to Burnie and King Island from Melbourne. The airline has made no secret of the fact that it is keen to fly to more destinations on the Apple Isle and is currently in discussions with other Tasmanian Airports.

Please note: A photo gallery of this morning's launch can been accessed <u>here</u>.









Melbourne to Devonport

Flight	Dep time	Arr time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
ZL3513	7:00am	8:20am	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>&gt;</b>	<b>+</b>	
ZL3531	5:00pm	6:20pm	<b>&gt;</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>&gt;</b>		<b>→</b>

**Devonport to Melbourne** 

Flight	Dep time	Arr time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
ZL3514	8:45am	10:00am	<b>→</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>+</b>	
ZL3532	6:45pm	8:00pm	<b>→</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>→</b>		<b>→</b>

**Rex** is Australia's largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 61 Saab 340 and six Boeing 737-800NG aircraft to 58 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the airline Rex, the Rex Group comprises wholly owned subsidiaries Pel-Air Aviation (air freight, aeromedical and charter operator), the Australian Airline Pilot Academy with campuses in Wagga Wagga and Ballarat, and propeller maintenance organisation, Australian Aerospace Propeller Maintenance.

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