

19 MAY 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

REX CORRECTS WHYALLA COUNCIL'S DECEPTIVE STATEMENTS

Following Whyalla City Council's deceptive statement of 18 May to the press concerning Rex's actions, Rex is compelled to set the record straight.

The Mayor of Whyalla is reported as saying:

"Regardless of individual carriers' requirements, the Whyalla Airport has now become a screened facility to meet Federal aviation conditions, meaning all airlines utilising the facility will need to cover the cost of screening, particularly given passengers cannot be segregated from screening based on their carrier."

Federal regulations allow screened and unscreened aircraft to depart from the same regional airport under an approved Transport Security Program (TSP) as has been the case at Wagga Wagga airport for the past 11 years.

In addition to Wagga Wagga, Rex competes with Qantas at a further seven Tier 2 regional airports (the same classification as Whyalla airport) where Rex does not incur airport security screening costs as Rex's aircraft are not legally required to undergo screening.

In the case of Whyalla, a simple partition and minor renovations works would suffice to allow the terminal to handle both screened and unscreened departures in full compliance with the Transport Security regulations.

The Mayor went on to say:

"Security screening was introduced about 18 months ago to meet the Federal Government's aviation security requirements, with funding provided for the initial implementation so it's a major blow for the Federal Government to now cease that ongoing funding."

Here again council has been deliberately deceptive. Security screening at regional airports has been in place for 11 years. It was introduced in Whyalla 18 months ago only when Qantas entered the route with its larger aircraft that triggered the need for passenger and baggage screening. The Federal government did support airport security screening costs as part of its package of COVID relief measures which will end, rightly so, on 30 June 2023 as conditions return to normal. Prior to the COVID pandemic, security screening operations were never funded by the Federal Government.

Rex believes that Whyalla council has lost all its credibility and Rex will no longer engage with this present council.

Rex is Australia's largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 61 Saab 340 and 7 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. Rex is also a 50% shareholder of National Jet Express (NJE), a premier Fly-In-Fly-Out (FIFO), charter and freight operator.

Media Contact

Rex Corporate Communications: +61 402 438 361 or media@rex.com.au

Members of the Rex Group

