



# Media release

## **The Hon Peter Ryan MP**

Deputy Premier  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
Minister for Bushfire Response  
Minister for Regional and Rural Development

## **The Hon Louise Asher MP**

Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business

Tuesday 22 May 2012

## **New air services means Mildura is ‘open for business’**

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Peter Ryan and Minister for Tourism and Major Events Louise Asher have welcomed today’s announcement that Regional Express (Rex) will launch a range of new passenger services connecting Mildura with Adelaide, Sydney and Broken Hill.

Mr Ryan said the expansion of air services from July this year would have significant benefits for Mildura and the wider region.

“This is exciting news for Mildura, providing residents with greater access to flights to Sydney, Adelaide and Broken Hill, as well as making it even more convenient for people from interstate to visit the many attractions in the region,” Mr Ryan said.

Mr Ryan said the announcement from Rex followed a commitment from the Victorian Coalition Government and the Mildura Rural City Council to fund the \$6.4 million *Mildura Airport Terminal Redevelopment* project.

“The Coalition Government contributed \$5.2 million through the \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund towards the airport redevelopment project which is scheduled to be completed by mid-2013,” Mr Ryan said.

“The redevelopment project will include remodelling of the check-in area, redesigning the baggage system and increasing the floor-space to support the flow of inbound and outbound passengers.

“Our support for the Mildura Airport redevelopment is a clear example of how the government’s strategy of investing in targeted projects that support jobs, growth and development in regional and rural areas can have major flow-on benefits,” Mr Ryan said.

Ms Asher said the Coalition Government would continue to work with Mildura Rural City Council and Mildura Airport to grow visitation and maximise the new services.

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“Travellers from New South Wales and South Australia represent a high percentage of Victoria’s interstate overnight visitors. With re-established and expanded air services we now have an opportunity to attract these sorts of visitors to Mildura in even greater numbers,” Ms Asher said.

“With many great attractions such as the beautiful Murray River, the Mildura Country Music Festival and other major events it is no surprise that Rex has chosen to invest in expanding services to this great area.”

Member for Mildura Peter Crisp said there were many great projects underway in Mildura that would help strengthen and grow the local economy and reinforce the city’s reputation as an important tourism hub.

“In addition to new flights in and out of Mildura and major improvements at the airport, the \$13.3 million Mildura Riverfront redevelopment project will transform Mildura’s riverfront into a world-class destination and reconnect the city’s CBD with the river,” Mr Crisp said.

“Whether it’s the award-winning slow food, locally produced wine or the natural beauty of the Murray River, Mildura is primed and ready to welcome more interstate visitors both for leisure and business.”

Direct flights between Mildura and Adelaide and Sydney will begin on 9 July, in addition to two daily return flights to Broken Hill. Broken Hill will also receive air services to Melbourne via Mildura.

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