

REGIONAL NSW AIR SERVICES ANNOUNCED TO CONNECT NSW

A Transport for NSW spokesperson today announced that regional air services into Sydney from 14 NSW regional communities would continue to operate under new five-year licences to take effect from 30 March 2013, and provide a significant increase in services between Moree and Sydney.

“Regional air routes provide a crucial link for communities to access vital services and amenities in Sydney, as well as connecting families that live far distances from each other,” the spokesperson said.

“These new licences will provide operators with exclusive access to those lower volume air routes for a five-year period and will encourage economic growth in regional areas of the state.

“This will provide certainty for communities and smaller regional airlines,” the spokesperson said.

Regulated routes are generally those routes linked to Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport which have fewer than 50,000 passengers annually. There are currently 14 regulated routes and the current licence period for these services expires in March 2013.

Following an Expression of Interest and Licence Application process, the following regulated route licence allocations will take effect from 30 March 2013:

○ Broken Hill-Sydney	Regional Express
○ Lord Howe Island-Sydney	QantasLink
○ Narrabri-Sydney	Brindabella Airlines
○ Narrandera-Sydney	Regional Express
○ Mudgee-Sydney	Brindabella Airlines
○ Cooma-Sydney	Brindabella Airlines
○ Cobar-Sydney	Brindabella Airlines
○ Moree-Sydney	Brindabella Airlines
○ Grafton-Sydney	Regional Express
○ Taree-Sydney	Regional Express
○ Moruya-Sydney	Regional Express
○ Merimbula-Sydney	Regional Express
○ Bathurst-Sydney	Regional Express
○ Parkes-Sydney	Regional Express

“By encouraging a competitive licensing process we believe we have attracted operators who are committed to providing reliable and customer focused services for regional communities,” the spokesperson said.

As part of the licence allocations, a new operator, Brindabella Airlines, will start on the Moree-Sydney route, offering increased services to the Moree region.

The new licence period will operate to March 2018, and will grant each operator exclusive rights on each route to provide stability and encourage route development over the term of the licence.