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## MEDIA RELEASE

### REX APPLAUDS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CONTINUE REGULATORY OVERSIGHT OF SYDNEY AIRPORT PRICING DECISIONS ON REGIONAL AIRLINES

Regional Express (Rex) applauds the Government's newly issued Declaration under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, which continues the established access and reasonable pricing arrangements for regional airlines at Sydney Airport. This extends the regime that commenced in 2002 for the next three years, through until 30 June 2016.

This essential measure ensures that any Sydney Airport price increases for regional airlines are capped at CPI and must be submitted to the ACCC for scrutiny.

Warrick Lodge, Rex General Manager Network Strategy & Sales praised Minister Anthony Albanese and Assistant Treasurer David Bradbury's proactive leadership on this matter, "This regulatory safety-net for regional air services recognises that Sydney Airport is an essential transport hub for regional New South Wales and that its continued access to the nation's busiest airport cannot be left purely to the commercial dictates of the private owners of the airport. We applaud the Government's firm and unequivocal intention to deliver on its commitments to regional NSW as outlined in the 2009 aviation White Paper."

"The combination of this regulatory safety-net and the legislated protection of regional ring-fenced slots at Sydney Airport ensures access and reasonable pricing for regional airlines. This is further strengthened by Sydney Airport's firm commitment to maintain these access arrangements for regional airlines which is a cornerstone of Sydney Airport's recently released Preliminary Draft Master Plan."

Rex operates around 28,000 regional flights per year through Sydney Airport, catering for the essential needs of more than half a million regional passengers that will greatly benefit from this very positive development.

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 40 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,300 weekly flights to 35 destinations throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. The Rex Group comprises Regional Express, air freight and charter operator Pel-Air Aviation and Dubbo-based regional airline Air Link, as well as the pilot academy Australian Airline Pilot Academy.

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