

3 JULY 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

REX COMMENCES EXPANDED SERVICES BETWEEN CAIRNS AND TOWNSVILLE

Regional Express (Rex) will commence 3 return flights each week day between Cairns and Townsville from this Monday, 6 July 2015. Rex will be adding some 60,000 annual seats to the route with 34 weekly flights. The schedule is attached below.

Rex had been heavily solicited by businesses and individuals to start a competitive air service on this route since Virgin Australia's exit in January 2014. In response, Rex undertook a market sounding exercise to gauge business community support for Rex and the level of prevailing dissatisfaction with the incumbent monopoly.

"Clearly the local business community and university have been crying out for a good, reliable operator, who can deliver reasonable fares on the route," said Mr Steve Jones, Rex's Queensland State Manager.

"In particular, many frequent travellers have advised us that the existing service often overflies Townsville when the service is running late, causing significant disruptions to their schedules."

"Rex is Australia's most reliable airline according to official government statistics* and its cancellation rate is around 7 times less than its main competitor*. Finally the communities of Cairns and Townsville are able to experience this award winning air service delivered with country hospitality."

Mr Jones added that the new service is estimated to bring savings of around \$4 million to the local communities in addition to more daily frequencies and access to reasonable fares.

"We are calling on local residents to give Rex its full support and in return we pledge to continue to deliver more and more tangible socio-economic benefits to Far North Queensland, including Cape York and the Torres Strait."

Advance Cairns Chief Executive Officer Mr Mark Matthews welcomed the new services.

"Advance Cairns warmly welcomes the commencement of Rex air services from Cairns to Townsville," he said.

"These services will bring additional capacity and competition to a busy route connecting our region. The further development of services by Rex is a strong sign of confidence in our region."

"Our regional connectivity is critical, and Rex has been proactive in developing new air services since commencing operations earlier this year."

Reservations for the Cairns to Townsville services can be made via www.rex.com.au, 13 17 13 or through your local travel agent.

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 53 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.

Rex Media Contact: Corporate Communications – +61 402 438 361

**According to statistics released by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics in their 2014 Domestic Airline On-Time Performance Report covering January 2014 – December 2014.*

ANNEX

Rex Cairns - Townsville Schedule

Cairns - Townsville

CAIRNS - TOWNSVILLE*										TOWNSVILLE - CAIRNS*									
FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
ZL5419	8:35 am	9:40 am	●	●	●	●	●			ZL5418	7:00 am	8:05 am	●	●	●	●	●		
ZL5421	10:40 am	11:45 am						●		ZL5420	8:35 am	9:40 am							●
ZL5425	11:55 am	1:00 pm	●	●	●	●	●			ZL5424	10:20 am	11:25 am	●	●	●	●	●		
ZL5443	7:15 pm	8:20 pm	●	●	●	●	●		●	ZL5442	5:10 pm	6:15 pm	●	●	●	●	●		●

* Schedule is valid from 6 July 2015 and is subject to change.