

5 OCTOBER 2016

## MEDIA RELEASE

### REX IMPROVES CAIRNS TO TOWNSVILLE SERVICE

Regional Express (Rex) has today announced the introduction of an improved flight schedule between Cairns and Townsville from 24 October 2016. Rex has been operating services between Cairns and Townsville since January 2015.

Commenting on the new Rex flight schedule, Rex Queensland State Manager Steve Jones said, "Rex has listened to government and business customers in both Cairns and Townsville and as a result we have reversed the flight schedule to operate an earlier flight from Cairns to Townsville in the morning, and a later flight from Townsville back to Cairns in the afternoon. We have also retained the ability for customers to undertake a full day's business in both cities with day-return travel made possible in each direction."

"Following Virgin Australia's exit from the Cairns to Townsville route in January 2014, Rex was heavily solicited by businesses and individuals to start a competitive air service so that the prevailing monopolistic pricing could be broken. In response, Rex commenced flights between Cairns and Townsville in early 2015, delivering millions of dollars of travel cost savings to both cities."

"Rex continues to listen and respond to the needs of its customers, however it does need the full support of both government and business to use the service or risk reverting to a costly monopoly on the Cairns to Townsville route. All that Rex asks is that customers choose the lowest fare which will reduce costs for government (taxpayers) and business, which in turn will foster competitive air services and keep fares affordable."

Rex also calls upon the Queensland Government to review its air travel policy that allows public servants to personally benefit from airline loyalty programs when travelling at the expense of the taxpayer. Rex believes that all government travel should be undertaken under a strict best fare of the day policy in order to ensure the best value for taxpayers and an even playing field that encourages competitive air services throughout the state. This competition is critical to maintaining reasonable airfares in regional areas such as North Queensland.

Reservations for the new Cairns to Townsville service can be made via [rex.com.au](http://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 50 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,500 weekly flights to 58 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the regional airline Regional Express, the **Rex Group** comprises wholly owned subsidiaries **Pel-Air Aviation** (air freight and charter operator), **Air Link** (Dubbo-based regional airline) and the **Australian Airline Pilot Academy**.


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## New Cairns to Townsville Flight Schedule

# Cairns - Townsville

CAIRNS - TOWNSVILLE*										
FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
ZL5417	6:45 am	7:45 am	●	●	●	●	●			
ZL5441	4:15 pm	5:15 pm	●	●	●	●	●			
ZL5443	7:10 pm	8:10 pm								●

TOWNSVILLE - CAIRNS*										
FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
ZL5418	8:15 am	9:20 am	●	●	●	●	●			
ZL5432	11:45 am	12:50 pm								●
ZL5442	5:40 pm	6:45 pm	●	●	●	●	●			

\* Schedule is valid from 24 October 2016 and is subject to change.