

CELEBRATING THE RICH HISTORY OF TRAVEL, TOURISM & AVIATION IN *Townsville* 150

Keeping regions in touch

REGIONAL Express, also known as Rex, is Australia's largest independent regional airline, operating a fleet of more than 50 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1300 weekly flights to 53 destinations throughout Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia.

Born out of the Ansett collapse, Rex was formed when a group of businessmen banded together to save the regional operations of the failed carrier – apparently the only part of the Ansett business that was still turning a profit.

In August 2002, they merged the two regional brands owned by Ansett, Hazelton and Kendell, under the one banner.

Rex's primary focus is connecting regional Australia to service centres, usually capital cities and larger coastal regional communities like Townsville and Cairns. In this way Rex has helped to make regional travel faster, easier and more affordable, boosting not only tourism in North Queensland but also helping regional industry to grow.

Now with a Queensland flight crew base of some 35 employees across Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane, the growth of this carrier ser-



HIGH STANDARDS: Regional Express is proud of its track record servicing regional Australia.

vice has been steady.

In February 2010, Rex launched a new direct service connecting Townsville to Mount Isa. This was after the

decision by the Queensland Government to award Rex the regulated Northern 1 route connecting Townsville with Winton and Longreach, and

the regulated Northern 2 route that links Mount Isa to Townsville via Julia Creek, Richmond and Hughenden three times per week.

In October 2014, Rex was awarded a further three regulated Queensland routes by the Queensland Government: the Western 1, Western 2 and Gulf regulated routes. Following this announcement, Rex also made the decision to start a direct route from Townsville to Cairns.

The three new regulated routes started in January this year with limited Townsville to Cairns services commencing a few days later, further expanding services in and out of Townsville and boosting competition between carrier companies.

By July 2015, weekday flights were added to the Cairns and Townsville schedule, adding three return flights each week day, resulting in 60,000 additional annual seats and a total of 34 weekly flights. Rex estimates that these new services will result in over \$4 million savings in airfares for the local communities.

Rex has won many awards for best practices, rating it as the best regional air service in the world, and it is ranked year after year as the most reliable regional airline by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics. This success is a vital link in making Townsville's flourishing economy great.

*Introducing Australia's most reliable regional airline**

TOWNSVILLE TO CAIRNS
3 times daily
each weekday

Routes in maroon are operated in conjunction with the Queensland Government.
 *According to statistics released by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics in their Financial Year 2014/15 Domestic Airline On-Time Performance Report.