

Source: Esperance Express, 26 February 2016

Rex Releases Flight Details

<http://www.esperanceexpress.com.au/>

REX releases flight details

COMMUTERS from Esperance to Perth are set to benefit from flight schedules designed to accommodate business needs with Regional Express (Rex) service due in Esperance for the first time on Sunday.

In addition to an extra return service every weekday, Esperance residents will be in Perth in time for a 9am appointment and return after a full business day in Perth, avoiding accommodation and other associated costs in the capital.

This follows the WA government's announcement on December 9, 2015 of Rex as the operator of two routes in its review of regulated Regular Public Transport (RPT) air services in the state.

The contract confers on Rex the sole right to operate these routes for the next five years beginning on February 28.

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 general manager for network strategy and sales Warrick Lodge said as these were Rex's first operations in WA, the Rex team had worked tirelessly over the past three months to set up a new Rex base in Perth.



Familiarisation: Claire Rymer, Anna Moir, Chloe Whittington, Anna Hildebrand from Helloworld Esperance and Rex state sales manager Kyle Good in Esperance.

"Three aircraft have already been deployed to Perth, and a dedicated Perth crew and maintenance base has been established.

"The new Rex services connecting Albany and Esperance to Perth will significantly enhance the connectivity of these two communities," Mr Lodge said.

He said Rex pledged to live up to its reputation for safe, reliable and affordable air service with country hospitality from the first day of operations on Sunday.

One dedicated spare aircraft would be on stand-by to minimise disruptions.

Perth Airport chief executive officer Brad Geatches wel-

comed Regional Express to Perth Airport to take over the Esperance and Albany routes.

"Both are outstanding places of natural beauty and great tourist destinations," Mr Geatches said.

Rex will operate both services from T2, located next to T1 Domestic and T1 International.

Hello World Esperance travel agency owner Anna Hildebrand said she had received positive feedback about the Rex flight schedule of three services Monday to Friday with two flights from Esperance to Perth on Saturday and one on Sunday.

The extra four flights meant the Rex service offered only 12 fewer seats than the existing Virgin service.

Ms Hildebrand said the 34 seat planes offered configurations of one or two seats with generous seat size and leather upholstery.

"Passengers can pay for extra leg room on five seats," Ms Hildebrand said.

The travel agent was impressed that Rex was demand responsive, already scheduling an extra flight to enable boarding school students to travel home to families for the long weekend.

She also commented Rex did not restrict the number of wheelchairs and hoists allowed per flight.

Approval to reproduce article given on 20 January 2016.