

Source: Manning River Times, 03 April 2008

Rex wins five year contract

REGIONAL Express (Rex) has been granted the sole rights to operate the Taree-Sydney air route for the next five years.

Taree is one of 15 NSW intrastate air transport licences awarded again to the company, all of them uncontested. Others are Bathurst, Bourke, Broken Hill, Cobar, Cooma, Coonamble, Grafton, Lightning Ridge, Merimbula, Moruya, Mudgee, Narrandera, Parkes and Walgett.

The licences came into operation on March 30 and expire on March 29, 2013.

Rex's general manager network strategy and sales Warrick Lodge said "The fact that all licensed routes on the Reg Group network in NSW have been awarded again to Rex is a testament to the outstanding work Rex and its subsidiary Air Link have done in the past five years as the licence holders."

The company has grown passenger numbers on these routes from 160,000 to 385,000 by increasing flight frequency, keeping fares affordable and partnering with local councils such as Greater Taree City.

Mr Lodge said the average fully inclusive ticket price on these sole operated routes has fallen by more than 20 per cent over the last five years and when excluding the fuel levy, the average ticket price has fallen by more than 35 per cent.

Mr Lodge repeated an earlier Rex warning that regional aviation for small regional cities is in jeopardy in today's airline environment, and regions such as the Manning Valley need to continue support of their local air service provider, for it to have a guaranteed future.