



5 July 2011

Mr Anthony Albanese MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

Re: Enroute Rebate Scheme (ERS)

Council writes to you to express its concern at the phasing out of the enroute rebate scheme which provides a rebate of en-route navigation charges for regional air services with aircraft <15t.

As a growing regional centre, with a number of major multi-national companies in residence, aside from extensive education establishments (eg. CSU) and government departments, Bathurst considers transport infrastructure and service provision as critical. This particularly includes reliable and efficient air services.

Bathurst is currently serviced by Regional Express (REX). REX have teamed with Council over a number of years to grow and develop a service that was seriously threatened at the time of the Ansett collapse. Whilst the service has grown, the route may not be sustainable with the loss of the en-route rebate scheme and the current climate of rising costs.

Regional cities such as Bathurst provide a diverse economy with strong manufacturing, health, education, retail and agricultural sectors. The regional airport with daily services to and from Sydney, provided by REX, is an integral component in the dynamic economic environment that exists in Bathurst and the Central West.

Council urges the government to continue the enroute rebate scheme, so that carriers such as REX can continue to provide their valuable quality service to regional Australia.

Yours faithfully

Paul Toole
MAYOR OF BATHURST