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MEDIA RELEASE

BATHURST BUSINESS CHAMBER CONCERNED BY POSSIBLE LOSS OR REDUCTION IN SYDNEY BATHURST AIR SERVICE

The Bathurst Business Chamber is concerned by the announcement by Regional airline operator, Regional Express that the Bathurst route was under review.

The Chamber is concerned that any reduction in or the loss of the current air service between Bathurst and Sydney would adversely affect its members, the city's business community and the region's economic development generally.

The Chamber members utilise air travel regularly and represent a high proportion of passengers on the Regional Express service operating between Bathurst Regional Airport and Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport.

The Chamber recognises the importance of transport to regional development. Access to the state's capital, and connecting ports is important for the development of business in Bathurst and further afield. It is equally important for attracting business and investment to the region.

Air travel fulfils an important role particularly for regional, national and multi national companies with operations in the Bathurst region.

Business Chamber spokesman, Angus Edwards said "We been in contact with Regional Express this morning following the announcement. We look forward to further discussions to ensure the Bathurst - Sydney route is maintained and secured into the future."

This is an issue for not only Regional Express, but all levels of government to promote and support regional air operators and the vital services they provide.

"The Bathurst Business Chamber is not surprised by the announcement and is aware that the Bathurst route was considered to be marginal as early as 12 months ago, given that the three return flights per day have a passenger capacity well in excess of the current passenger numbers on the route"

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