

18 MAY 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

REX EXITS WHYALLA-ADELAIDE ROUTE DUE TO COUNCIL IMPOSED SECURITY CHARGES

Rex Airlines today announces that it will exit the Whyalla to Adelaide route from 1 July 2023 following Whyalla City Council's decision to impose passenger security screening charges on to Rex's services that are not legally required to be screened.

The Federal Government has determined that Rex's regional aircraft are not required to have security screening for its passengers. Whyalla City Council is fully aware of this fact.

Rex's General Manager of Network Strategy, Warrick Lodge said, "Imposing a passenger security screening charge of \$35-\$40 per departing passenger is a devious and underhanded attempt by Whyalla City Council to force Rex to subsidise the security screening costs of Qantas whose services are legally required to be screened".

"The significant additional security cost makes the Whyalla to Adelaide route unviable for Rex and as a result of Council's decision Rex has no option but to exit. We have made it perfectly clear to the City of Whyalla for many months that this unnecessary and significant cost will result in the route being financially unsustainable. Rex's decision should therefore not come as a surprise to the Council."

"Rex and its predecessor, Kendell Airlines, have serviced the City of Whyalla since 28 June 1986 so it is disappointing that this current Council is ungrateful for the 37 years of reliable, frequent and affordable air services that have provided significant socio-economic benefits to the City of Whyalla and the surrounding region."

"During the Covid-19 pandemic Rex worked tirelessly to provide the Whyalla community with good levels of flight frequency, timetable consistency and low cancellations rates at a time when the aviation industry was on its knees and regional communities were doing it tough."

"This decision by Council will see local ratepayers and visitors paying a very heavy price with airfares increasing by around \$70 on average if the track record of the remaining carrier is anything to go by."

Rex would like to thank customers who have supported Rex on the Whyalla to Adelaide route over the many years it has served the community. Customers holding tickets for travel beyond 1 July 2023 will be provided with a full refund.

Rex will not rule out resuming services if council invites Rex back under the right operating conditions.

Rex is Australia's largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 61 Saab 340 and 7 Boeing 737-800NG aircraft to 58 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the airline Rex, the Rex Group comprises wholly owned subsidiaries Pel-Air Aviation (air freight, aeromedical and charter operator), the Australian Airline Pilot Academy with campuses in Wagga Wagga and Ballarat, and propeller maintenance organisation, Australian Aerospace Propeller Maintenance. Rex is also a 50% shareholder of National Jet Express (NJE), a premier Fly-In-Fly-Out (FIFO), charter and freight operator.

Media Contact

Rex Corporate Communications: +61 402 438 361 or media@rex.com.au

Members of the Rex Group

