20 APRIL 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

REX SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING COMMONWEALTH FUNDING FOR REGIONAL SERVICES

Regional Express (Rex) has today signed a Commonwealth Grant Agreement under the COVID-19 Regional Airline Network Support (RANS) program announced by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), the Hon Michael McCormack, on 28 March 2020. Under the program, regional airline carriers will be provided assistance to maintain a minimal weekly schedule to regional and remote ports. The RANS program will provide funding for up to six months with an initial approval for six weeks.

Under the Grant Agreement, Rex will receive funding to operate 1-2 return services a week to most destinations on the Rex network.

Revised guidelines were released late last week, by the Federal Government, with provision to increase the number of funded services for each regional/remote port. Rex has submitted a revised request for funding and if successful, nominated Rex ports will see a minimum of two return services per week with some ports having up to three return services per week. The list of ports and frequency of services in Rex's application is provided in the Appendix.

Three of the State Governments, being Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia, have also committed to funding additional services on top of what the Federal Government package is providing. Details of the additional State supported arrangements will be released once confirmed.

Rex's Deputy Chairman, the Hon John Sharp AM said, "All regional and remote communities owe the DPM Michael McCormack and the Morrison Government a great debt of gratitude for providing funding to ensure they continue to receive minimal essential air links to the capital cities for medical, professional and educational needs. Without this intervention, many smaller regional communities would risk not having any air services at all for at least six months."

"Never before has regional Australia been faced with such a massive and sudden threat. Regional Australia is very fortunate to have a government which places the highest national priority in ensuring the regional socio-economic fabric is not permanently destroyed by this national emergency."

"Rex would also like to thank, on behalf of all regional carriers, the Morrison Government for extending this lifeline at an incredibly quick speed, without which all independent regional airline carriers would have collapsed in the coming days. By funding a barebones schedule for the next six months, the Federal Government has given all regional airlines a fighting chance to see through this pandemic."

"With the Commonwealth assistance packages for regional carriers in place, we are confident that we will be able to help all regional cities who are willing to work in partnership with us to rebuild their regional air services to their full potential over the next two years. Rex will stand by all the regional communities that have stood by Rex during this global and national crisis."

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of 60 Saab 340 aircraft (pre-COVID) on some 1,500 weekly flights to 59 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the regional airline **Rex**, the **Rex Group** comprises wholly owned subsidiaries **Pel-Air Aviation** (air freight, aeromedical and charter operator) and the two pilot academies **Australian Airline Pilot Academy** in Wagga Wagga and Ballarat.

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**** APPENDIX ****
REGIONAL EXPRESS (REX) WEEKLY RETURN SERVICES

NSW, SA, TAS, VIC (NON REGULATED)

ROUTE		Approved Commonwealth – funded Weekly Return Services	Revised Rex Application for Commonwealth Funding - Total Weekly Return Services
Adelaide	Mt Gambier	1	2
Adelaide	Mildura		2
Adelaide	Ceduna	1	2
Adelaide	Broken Hill	1	2
Adelaide	Coober Pedy		2
Adelaide	Whyalla	1	2
Adelaide	Port Lincoln	1	2
Adelaide	Kangaroo Island	1	2
Melbourne	Mildura	1	2
Melbourne	Albury/Wagga Wagga*	2	3
Melbourne	Burnie/King Island*	2	3
Melbourne	Mount Gambier	1	2
Melbourne	Merimbula	1	2
Sydney	Armidale		2
Sydney	Grafton/Lismore*	2	3
Sydney	Ballina		2
Sydney	Dubbo/Broken Hill*	2	3
Sydney	Wagga	1	2
Sydney	Albury	1	2
Sydney	Griffith/Narrandera-Leeton*	2	3
Sydney	Moruya/Merimbula*	2	3
Sydney	Orange	1	2
Sydney	Bathurst/Parkes*	2	3
Sydney	Cooma	1	2
Townsville	Cairns	1	2
Cairns	Mount Isa	1	2
Cairns	Bamaga	1	2
Non-Regulated Total		**30**	**62**

*Combined services

WA (REGULATED)

ROUTE		Approved Commonwealth – funded Weekly Return Services	Revised Rex Application for Commonwealth Funding - Total Weekly Return Services
Perth	Albany	1	2
Perth	Esperance	1	2
Perth	Carnarvon/Monkey Mia*	1	3
WA Regulated Total		**3**	**7**

QLD (REGULATED)

ROUTE	Approved Commonwealth – funded Weekly Return Services	Revised Rex Application for Commonwealth Funding - Total Weekly Return Services
Northern 1 Route	1	1
Townsville - Winton - Longreach		
Northern 2 Route	1	2
Townsville - Hughenden - Richmond - Julia Creek - Mt Isa		
Western 1 Route	1	1
Brisbane - Toowoomba (Wellcamp) - St George - Cunnamulla - Thargomindah		
Western 2 Route	1	1
Brisbane - Toowoomba (Wellcamp) - Charleville - Quilpie - Windorah - Birdsville - Bedourie - Boulia - Mt Isa		
Gulf Route	1	3
Cairns - Normanton - Mornington Island - Doomadgee - Mt Isa		
QLD Regulated Total	**5**	**8**

NETWORK TOTAL

ALL ROUTES	Approved Commonwealth – funded Weekly Return Services	Revised Rex Application for Commonwealth Funding - Total Weekly Return Services
	38	76