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## MEDIA RELEASE

### REX TO OFFER AID TO THOSE AFFECTED BY RECENT FLOODS

Regional Express (Rex) today announced that it has set aside a fund of \$200,000 in the form of travel on its services for flood relief assistance in regional New South Wales. Recent floods in western New South Wales have seen an estimated \$500 million damage to crops, a devastating blow to growers who had been looking forward to a bumper crop after a decade of severe drought.

Premier Kristina Keneally welcomed the support of Rex. "I thank Rex for joining efforts to help the many NSW farmers and families who are feeling the effects of the recent floods. Since the beginning of the weekend, the NSW Government has declared 22 areas in western and southern NSW as natural disaster zones, making a range of assistance available to the residents, farmers, and business owners who have suffered property damage. The state's south and west have borne the brunt of recent severe weather, and our actions here are designed to help local families and businesses."

Commenting on the flood relief effort, Rex Deputy Chairman John Sharp said that the floods have caused widespread devastation in a number of regional communities served by Rex, and the Board and Management felt compelled to contribute to relief efforts.

"These regional communities have continually supported Rex through the difficulties of the past few years with the pilot shortage, GFC, rising fuel prices and attempts by Sydney Airport to price us out of existence. We are fully committed to giving back to the community in these times of dire need. A few years ago, Rex had set aside \$2.5 million worth of travel to assist communities affected by the drought. It is hard to imagine that the same communities now are affected by floods instead."

"Community organisations and relief agencies as well as individuals are invited to tap into the fund that Rex has set aside to apply for travel, which will enable them to play a critical role in providing services and assistance to those directly affected. This includes not just farmers, but also others in the rural communities, small businesses, community groups and individuals."

"Rex's motto is 'Our Heart Is In The Country' and this is one of those occasions when country people can come together to help each other." Mr Sharp said.

Airfare assistance can be applied through the Rex website at <http://www.rex.com.au/Sponsorship/FloodAssistanceRequest.aspx>.

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 40 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,300 weekly flights to 35 destinations throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. The Rex Group comprises Regional Express, air freight and charter operator Pel-Air Aviation and Dubbo-based regional airline Air Link, as well as the pilot academy Australian Airline Pilot Academy.

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