

News Release

REX ANNOUNCES INCREASED SERVICES

23 June 2004: Rex, Australia's largest independent regional airline, has announced a boost in capacity to cater for ongoing passenger growth across its network.

The most significant benefit will be for customers on flights between Adelaide and the cities of Mount Gambier and Whyalla, where services are being upgraded to the 34-seat SAAB 340 aircraft with Rex dedicating a fourth SAAB to its six aircraft fleet in South Australia.

Services between Sydney and Mildura, Sydney and Griffith, Sydney and Wagga Wagga, Sydney and Orange, and Adelaide and Ceduna, will also have additional flights under the new schedule announced today.

The additional capacity will increase the availability of discount fares for customers on these regional routes.

Mount Gambier

Rex is increasing seat capacity by 40% (376 seats) each week between Mount Gambier and Adelaide to cater for passenger growth and positive feedback following the introduction in May last year of the 34-seat SAAB 340 on selected flights.

From 19th July the SAAB aircraft will now fly 36 of the 40 Rex flights between Adelaide and Mount Gambier each week, including all peak time services, providing a high level of comfort with flight attendant, snack and bar service, as well as toilet facilities.

Seats on the Mount Gambier to Melbourne market will also increase by 15 per cent with a new lunchtime return service on Fridays, a new flight Melbourne to Mount Gambier on Saturday evening and a Sunday morning service Mount Gambier to Melbourne.

Whyalla

Seat capacity between Adelaide and Whyalla will be increased by 20% (210 seats) weekly with the aircraft being upgraded to the 34-seat SAAB 340 on all flights except morning services on weekends. The improved services are the result of the increase in demand and positive response from passengers since the SAAB was introduced onto selected Whyalla services in May last year.

From 19th July, 34 out of 38 weekly services between Whyalla and Adelaide will be operated by the SAAB aircraft, including all peak time flights. This aircraft offers customers high levels of comfort with a flight attendant on board, snack and bar service, as well as toilet facilities.

Ceduna

Services between Adelaide and Ceduna are being boosted from 21st July with the addition of a morning return service on Wednesdays. Rex will now operate 20 flights each week between Adelaide and Ceduna.

Griffith & Mildura

Rex's Sydney-Griffith-Mildura link and return will operate on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday with the addition of a Wednesday service from today. This will help cater for higher passenger demand between Sydney and both Griffith and Mildura.

Wagga Wagga

Rex is adding an extra Sunday afternoon return service between Wagga Wagga and Sydney from Sunday 4th July, providing greater flexibility and availability of discount fares for weekend customers.

Orange

From Sunday 27th June, Rex is adding another Sunday afternoon return service between Orange and Sydney. This will offer weekend customers greater choice of flights and availability of discount fares.

Rex's General Manager Community Relations, Peter Leate, said the new schedules were a reflection of the increasing number of passengers taking to the skies on its regional routes.

"The new services are further demonstration of Rex's dedication to seeing regional air services flourish and responding to needs of individual communities," Mr Leate said.

"Customers will enjoy extra convenience and flexibility as a result of the enhanced schedules and the wider availability of discount seats through increased capacity will make air travel affordable for more people."

He said the new South Australian services represented a significant increase in Rex's commitment to regional air travel in the state.

"Rex's passenger numbers in South Australia have continued to increase since the introduction of the 34-seat SAAB aircraft on the Mount Gambier and Whyalla routes last year, so it is a logical step for us to use the larger plane more widely on these services.

"We are confident the additional comfort and service offered by the SAAB aircraft will be welcomed by customers and that its presence on these routes will encourage more people to fly."

Today's announcement follows last week's launch of Rex's new services between Sydney and Armidale that will start on Thursday September 2nd.

With the addition of Armidale to the network, Rex will fly more than 1000 flights every week to 30 metropolitan and regional centres across New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia as well as linking the national capital Canberra to Sydney with regular daily flights.

Bookings for Rex flights can be made through www.rex.com.au, by calling Rex on 13 17 13, or through local travel agents.

Media contact: Peter Leate on 0402 438 361