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REX RESPONSE TO PILOT FATIGUE ARTICLE

Regional Express (Rex) would like to respond to the article, 'Pilots fight for better fatigue management rules for sake of air safety' published in *The Daily Telegraph* on 18 June 2017.

Rex welcomes all improvements to flight safety that are evidence-based and that are not simply driven by militant demands from union groups. It is interesting that the Australian Federation of Air Pilots (AFAP) claims that flight safety is being compromised by the current regulations on duty hours and yet they have not been able to produce a single shred of empirical evidence as a basis for their claims.

If they had scientific evidence based on hard facts, they would not now have hastily commissioned a survey of pilots on fatigue with a deadline of one month. Such a survey is no more meaningful than a survey asking workers if they want higher salaries. Furthermore, many of the questions in the survey do not accurately represent fatigue, and it is an obvious clumsy attempt to skew the results.

On the other hand, Rex and the other major airlines have hundreds of millions of hours of data to show that the current regulations do not lead to any compromise of flight safety due to inherent insufficient rest periods for the crew. In the past 30 years, we have not seen a single accident of a Regular Passenger Transport flight attributed to fatigue.

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) is setting up a review process employing eminently qualified experts to scientifically and objectively determine the optimal conditions applicable to Australia on the matter of crew work and rest rules. The AFAP is a union group, not a group of scientists, and it should stick to what it does best.

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

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- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development
- Australian Transport Safety Bureau
- Regional Aviation Association of Australia
- The Australian Aviation Associations' Forum
- Aviation Safety Advisory Panel