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MEDIA RELEASE

REX APPLAUDS TAAAF AVIATION POLICY 2016 AND CALLS ON GOVERNMENT FOR URGENT ACTION

Regional Express (Rex) applauds The Australian Aviation Associations Forum (TAAAF) for the development and release of its Aviation Policy 2016.

The 2016 Policy document entitled 'A new partnership for the aviation industry', is a comprehensive document highlighting the major aviation issues confronting the majority of Australia's aviation associations and provides recommendations for addressing these issues.

Rex Chief Operating Officer, Mr Neville Howell, said that Rex fully endorses the recommendations in the TAAAF policy document.

"The aviation regulatory environment is a significant part of the policy with TAAAF calling for, among other things, the appointment of a Minister Assisting for Aviation, modernisation of the Civil Aviation Act, and further reform action on the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)."

"Rex fully supports the current CASA Board, recognising it as having the most experience and industry knowledge of any in the past decade, however we strongly support recommendations by TAAAF that call for aviation policy making to be returned to the hands of the government."

"The government must also give urgent attention to the overhaul of CASA as detailed by the Australian Safety Regulation Review or 'Forsyth Report' which the government commissioned in November 2013. The ASRR implementation process has been underway since December 2014 with the report author estimating that only 29% of the CASA recommendations have been fully implemented."

"We add our direct voice to that of TAAAF and call on the government to pay urgent attention to the issues highlighted in the policy. There are a number of serious issues currently facing aviation in general, and regional aviation specifically, and the very slow pace of action of successive transport ministers has inflicted significant and in some cases irreversible damage to the industry," Mr Howell concluded.

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 50 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,500 weekly flights to 58 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the regional airline Regional Express, the **Rex Group** comprises wholly owned subsidiaries **Pel-Air Aviation** (air freight and charter operator), **Air Link** (Dubbo-based regional airline) and the **Australian Airline Pilot Academy**.

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