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MEDIA RELEASE

REX FLIGHTS TO BOOST CANBERRA'S ECONOMY BY \$191 MILLION

The launch today of flights between Sydney and Canberra will provide a direct annual economic boost of nearly \$200 million to the national capital, according to data analysis by respected public policy evaluation and consultancy firm, Urbis*.

The stimulus will also create several hundred new jobs, the study found.

The findings were released as the first Rex flight from Sydney to Canberra touched down just before eight o'clock this morning.

The Saab 340 service, one of seven return flights each weekday, heralds the return of competition on the route and the introduction of more affordable, \$99 one-way fares. This is less than a third of the average price of a Qantas ticket for the same flight.

"Australia needs Rex if it is to have competitive airline services of a high quality," Deputy Chairman, the Hon John Sharp AM, said

"Because one thing's for sure – Qantas has been gouging the domestic market and Canberra is a very good example of that. Qantas's behaviour has cost the ACT economy enormously."

"Our \$99 fare on the Canberra route is no different from those offered elsewhere on our network, all day and every day."

The flights, which represent an extra 160,000 seats a year, will grow the total market by stimulating new leisure and tourism traffic while also sparking a surge in travellers visiting friends and families.

"This study demonstrates how incredibly valuable a competitive airline offering is to a local economy and a community like the ACT and surrounding areas."

"Rex's entry to the Canberra airline market will add 300 jobs here and it will generate economic activity of nearly \$200 million just because our competitive pricing will put a stop to Qantas's gouging of passengers with very high prices.

"So this is good for local employment, for tourism and all the attractions in the region and I thank the ACT Government and Canberra Airport for helping to achieve such a great outcome," Mr Sharp said

Rex is the only domestic airline which offers a full refund for passengers who need to cancel a flight because of a COVID-related reason.

*Urbis worked on Canberra Airport's 2020 Master Plan providing analysis of the economic benefits of the Airport to the region over the next 20 years.

Rex is Australia's largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 60 Saab 340 and four Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft to 62 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the 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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