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MEDIA RELEASE

REX RESPONDS TO REINTRODUCTION OF ENROUTE SCHEME

Regional Express (Rex) today responded to the Federal Government's reinstatement of a new Enroute Charges Payment Scheme. The new scheme includes \$1 million funding for eligible regional commercial passenger services on low volume and new routes with no more than 15,000 passengers per annum.

Rex Chief Operating Officer Neville Howell expressed disappointment with the structure of the scheme.

"The amount allocated by the Federal Government to the new Enroute Charges Payment Scheme represents only 15% of the assistance given under the previous scheme. Furthermore, the low threshold of 15,000 passengers per annum means that most of Australia's regional routes are not eligible for the rebate."

"It is disappointing that the government is doing so little to help regional aviation when 16 regional airlines have collapsed in the last 12 years. Given the current aviation crisis in this country, more will collapse, and the token amounts will not stem the permanent loss of regional services to many parts of regional Australia."

Rex is examining the eligibility of its routes under this scheme and may submit an application for routes that qualify.

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 36 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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