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MEDIA RELEASE

REX TAKES-OFF TO DEVONPORT

Rex today announced it would start flying between Melbourne and Devonport – the airline’s third Tasmanian destination – in August 2022.

This is made possible by the resources freed up by Rex’s withdrawal from the Melbourne – Albury route at the end of May 2022. This route was already marginal pre COVID with an annual passenger number of only 22,000. It is now no longer viable with Qantas’ predatory entry into the route on March 28, 2021.

Rex’s Deputy Chairman, the Hon John Sharp AM, said, “This new Rex route Melbourne to Devonport carried pre COVID close to 150,000 annual passengers and we have been courted by the local community for over 2 years because of the price gouging by Qantas, the sole carrier on the route, and because of the very poor service levels.”

“We did not respond earlier to the pleas of the community as we had limited resources then and we wanted to give priority to our existing network. Qantas predatory attacks on Rex’s network mean that we no longer can support the marginal routes and we need to channel our resources to the biggest regional routes where the financial returns are much better.”

“The economics are evident and we believe we’ll be carrying more than twice the number of passengers to Devonport than we did to Albury with the same amount of resources deployed.”

“This is part of Rex’s network revamp as foreshadowed in our media release of May 30, to improve our financial performance. We will be ramping up significantly our services in the biggest regional routes and at the start of the new Financial Year our regional capacity will be higher than pre COVID levels.”

More details about the new Melbourne-Devonport flights, including special launch fares, will be released in the coming weeks when tickets go on sale before the end of the month.

Rex is Australia’s largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 60 Saab 340 and 6 Boeing 737-800NG 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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