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MEDIA RELEASE

REX WELCOMES ARMIDALE COUNCIL'S EFFORTS TO FACILITATE UNSCREENED DEPARTURES

Rex welcomes Armidale Airport's recent airport refurbishment which has established an alternative departure gate for unscreened departures of flights not requiring screening.

As of Saturday, July 1, the new departure gate opened for airlines like Rex that do not require security screening. Under existing Federal Government regulations, security screening is not required of aircraft with fewer than 40 seats.

"Rex applauds Armidale Council's enlightened approach to carry out minor renovations works to facilitate screened and unscreened departures. This is the only way to ensure that passengers of airlines like Rex do not need to pay an additional charge to subsidise the screening cost of airlines using larger aircraft," Rex's National Airports Manager, David Brooksby said.

"Otherwise, it will experience what Whyalla community will be experiencing in the coming days. Whyalla Council foolishly wanted to curry favour with Qantas and refused to facilitate screened and unscreened departures although the terminal could easily accommodate this, but instead slugged Rex's passengers with a security surcharge of about \$40 to subsidise Qantas operations. As a result, Rex stopped servicing the Whyalla Adelaide route on 30 June 2023, which it did faithfully throughout the turmoils and calamities of the past 37 years."

"After a short, circumspect period of good behaviour, Qantas will revert to what it has always done when it has a monopoly. The Whyalla community only needs to look at the other ports where Qantas is the sole airline operator like Lord Howe Island to be certain what would be its fate ahead – fare gouging, reduced service and high cancellations."

"Rex has received numerous appeals to reconsider its position on the Whyalla to Adelaide route. Rex feels the pain of the community as we have been with the constituents through thick and thin for almost 40 years. However, we have come to the conclusion that this current council has lost all credibility and we regrettably cannot provide our services in this environment."

Rex is Australia's largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 59 Saab 340 and 7 Boeing 737-800NG aircraft to 57 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), the Australian Airline Pilot Academy with campuses in Wagga Wagga and Ballarat, and propeller maintenance organisation, Australian Aerospace Propeller Maintenance. Rex is also a 50% shareholder of National Jet Express (NJE), a premier Fly-In-Fly-Out (FIFO), charter and freight operator.

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