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## MEDIA RELEASE

### REX LAUNCHES MELBOURNE-CANBERRA FLIGHTS

Rex today announced it would begin flying between Melbourne and Canberra from June 10, operating a twice-daily return service on a Boeing 737-800NG jet.

The \$69 one-way economy fares are \$123 cheaper than the lowest airfare available in May, according to official Federal Government statistics\*.

The new Melbourne-Canberra service will bring 200,000 annual seats to the route and represents the latest addition to Rex's rapidly expanding domestic network.

It follows last month's launch of the Sydney-Canberra route where Rex operates seven return flights each weekday.

More than a million people travel between the two capital cities each year pre-COVID and return flights on Qantas can cost more than \$900. Indeed, a return Qantas flight this Queen's Birthday long weekend costs as much as \$928.28.

"Qantas has perfected the art of price gouging, ripping off passengers with sky-high fares on a route with only a weak competitor to keep it honest," Rex Deputy Chairman, the Hon John Sharp AM, said.

"This will now change with Rex's entry. We are sure that both Qantas and Virgin Australia will immediately match our fares as they have done every time. We estimate that Rex's entry will save Canberrans over \$150 million a year in lower fares once travel returns to pre-COVID levels. This is on top of an equivalent amount for the Sydney-Canberra route," Mr Sharp said.

"The savings will make a big difference to many families during this trying period and will be funnelled into the local economy and create more jobs. The cheap fares will add a further boost to the tourism and hospitality industries in the ACT and make it really affordable for Canberrans to visit friends and family and attend sporting events in Melbourne."

The \$69 fare includes free checked baggage and on-board refreshments as Rex is a full-service airline built on a bedrock of country-style hospitality and offering a three class seating option – Business, Rextra Legroom and Economy.

Rex is the only airline in Australia that offers a COVID Refund policy for new bookings, which guarantees full refunds for any passenger affected by COVID-related cancellations, re-scheduling, border closures and travel restrictions.

"The ACT Government warmly welcomes Rex Airlines investment in the Canberra-Melbourne route," ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, said.

"This is a major boost to competition on one of the city's busiest aviation routes. It will make it easier, and significantly cheaper, for people to visit Canberra.

"It is a further vote of confidence in Canberra's tourism and hospitality industry and today's announcement will be welcomed by both leisure and business travellers," Mr Barr said.

Canberra Airport Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Byron, said: "This announcement cements Rex's commitment to Canberra and the region, now servicing our two biggest markets - Sydney

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and Melbourne, and provides choice and a tremendous opportunity for the people of Canberra and Melbourne.”

\*Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics

**Rex** is Australia’s largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 60 Saab 340 and six Boeing 737-800NG aircraft to 61 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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