



Media release

Minister for Transport and Main Roads
The Honourable Scott Emerson

New deal for Queensland's regional airlines

Queenslanders will continue to experience the same level of service on regional air routes from January 1 next year after the signing of a new series of contracts.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Scott Emerson said following a review in 2013 and an extensive competitive tender process this year, some air routes will be serviced by different carriers.

"QantasLink and Rex have won the rights to service regional Queensland passengers across seven air routes," Mr Emerson said.

"Under the new contracts, the same number of services will be offered and all regional airports will remain the same – except Toowoomba's Wellcamp Airport will now be used.

"This is a great deal for regional Queensland and is part of our strong plan for a brighter future.

"I'd like to thank all carriers for their involvement with a number of very competitive bids."

QantasLink won the tender for two routes, while Rex will extend its current services from two routes to five, taking over three routes currently operated by Skytrans.

Routes Western 1 (Brisbane-Toowoomba-St George, Cunnamulla-Thargomindah) and Western 2 (Brisbane-Toowoomba-Charleville-Quilpie-Windorah-Birdsville-Bedourie, Boulia-Mt Isa) will use the new Wellcamp Airport, about 15 minutes west of Toowoomba.

Rex will be visiting its 16 new ports within the next two weeks to meet with stakeholders and to carry out the work required to obtain CASA regulatory approval.

With existing contracts finishing at the end of 2014, all current government contracted long distance aviation and coach routes were competitively tendered for, with the new contracts to commence on January 1, 2015.

As announced in February, a further three routes will be deregulated and opened up to competition.

The 2013 long distance service review by TransLink received more than 7200

completed surveys from passengers, while 18 forums were conducted throughout Queensland and 70 formal submissions were received from local government, transport operators and business groups.

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Route name	Route details	Current operator (to 31 Dec 2014)	Operator from 01 January 2015
Central 1	Brisbane – Roma - Charleville	QantasLink	QantasLink
Central 2	Brisbane-Barcaldine/Blackall-Longreach	QantasLink	QantasLink
Western 1	Brisbane-Toowoomba-St George-Cunnamulla-Thargomindah	Skytrans	Regional Express (Rex)
Western 2	Brisbane-Toowoomba-Charleville-Quilpie-Windorah-Birdsville-Bedourie-Boulia-Mount Isa	Skytrans	Regional Express (Rex)
Northern 1	Townsville-Winton-Longreach	Regional Express	Regional Express (Rex)
Northern 2	Townsville-Hughenden-Richmond-Julia Creek-Mount Isa	Regional Express	Regional Express (Rex)
Gulf	Cairns-Normanton-Mornington Island-Burketown-Doomadgee-Mount Isa	Skytrans	Regional Express (Rex)