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MEDIA RELEASE

REX APPLAUDS MINISTER ALBANESE'S STAND ON REGIONAL AIRLINES ACCESS TO SYDNEY AIRPORT

Regional Express (Rex) applauds the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese for his stance on regional airlines' access to Sydney Airport in his response during the Questions Without Notice session from Mr Windsor on the 28th of June.

The Minister recognized the need to *"ensure that there is continued access for regional services into Kingsford Smith airport"* and that it was *"critical that it be during peak periods so that people in rural communities... can get access into Sydney in the morning, do work and get home in the evening. This government is absolutely committed to making sure that that is the case... The slots used by regional airlines for intra-state services at Sydney airport are protected under the Slot Management Scheme... There will be no change to that under this government, because it is absolutely vital that regional services continue to have that protection."*

Rex Chief Operating Officer Garry Filmer said, "We applaud the Minister's unequivocal support for regional air access to Sydney Airport and on behalf of the regional communities that we service we would like to thank Minister Albanese for his unwavering position on this matter."

"From way back in 2009 the government categorically stated that it recognised Sydney Airport's role as an essential transport hub for regional New South Wales and will ensure access and reasonable pricing for regional airlines. Minister Albanese reaffirmed this commitment back in June 2010 as well as September 2011."

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 35 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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