

Regional slots in Sydney 'imperative'

REGIONAL Express (Rex) airlines general manager of network strategy Warrick Lodge says protecting "regional slots" at Sydney airport is imperative for the communities the airline serves.

Sydney Airport released its preliminary draft master plan yesterday, which detailed how it plans to manage growth for the next 20 years.

A key component of the plan was its ambition to double the amount of passengers it handles by 2033.

Mr Lodge said the "regional slots" – which were created by government after the privatisation of the airport in 2001 – meant regional communities continued to enjoy the social and economic benefits of air travel.

"As an independent airline Rex provides a vital service to the communities it serves," Mr Lodge said of the airline, which operates from several regional centres including Wagga.

"For this reason it is imperative we have access to Kingsford Smith, even if a second airport is built, we need to be protect-



ACCESS: REX general manager for network strategy Warrick Lodge has welcomed an assurance by Sydney Airport that it won't change levels of access or service for regional airlines carriers.
Picture: Addison Hamilton

ing the customer access and experience."

Mr Lodge said he was pleased the Sydney Airport was receptive to regional airlines during consultations.

The draft detailed the air-

port's plan to create two integrated terminal precincts with international, domestic and regional flights operating from both, which Mr Lodge said ensure a more seamless transition for connecting flights.

The draft includes a comprehensive ground transport plan that will improve traffic flow around the airport with a new five-lane road and a bus and multi-parking facility created by 2018.