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### Regional aviation fears

By [Anne Delaney](#)

**Riverina-based airline Regional Express (Rex) says regional aviation should be excluded from the carbon tax.**

The Wagga Wagga based airline Regional Express says regional aviation should be excluded from the carbon tax.

The airline says the carbon tax could lead to a decline in services in regional areas.

The company's General Manager of Network Strategy, Warrick Lodge says an additional \$6-million in fuel and other Federal Government charges is not easy to absorb.

He says the removal of the en-route rebate for regional airlines, the carbon tax, the increase in the fuel excise and costs associated with increasing security at regional airports all take effect from 1 July 2012.

Mr Lodge is concerned 12 months is not long enough for some companies to fully prepare for all the changes.

He says he doubts the federal government understands how important regional airlines are for country Australia, and would like to see greater assistance for and consultation with operators like Rex before changes are implemented.

He's worried the changes might spell the end for some operators meaning a severe impact on services to regional Australia.