

## **Airline merger collapses**

HOPES for competitive flight prices out of Port Macquarie have been dashed, for now.

Earlier this month Sunshine Express Airlines, which flies from Port Macquarie to Brisbane, announced a possible merger with Regional Express Airlines.

However it was announced on Friday that the proposed merger would not proceed.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council general manager Bernard Smith said the status quo would remain.

"The council has been very open about needing competition on the Port Macquarie to Sydney route," Mr Smith said.

"In time Regional Express Airlines (REX) could have expanded to incorporate the Sydney route, but that is not a possibility now."

Mr Smith said the council would continue to work on a robust and competitive Sydney to Port Macquarie route.