

Source: Aviation Business Asia Pacific magazine, 28 July 2008

Rex calls for pain relief

Describing the current industry climate as “bigger than SARS, 9/11 and the drought combined”, **Rex** deputy chairman John Sharp has called on the Federal Government to pressure capital city airports to hand back some of their profits to support the viability of airlines. “Now is the time for decisive and strong leadership if we do not want a repeat of the **Ansett** collapse,” Sharp said. Ansett disintegrated under the impact of a very different set of factors, but the warning still has weight. Nonetheless, government intervention seems just as unlikely. The best Rex can probably hope for is some measure of subsidy for vital rural services until the pressure eases.