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AIRPORT EMERGENCY

Lights fail on tarmac



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**Plane unable to land
for nearly an hour**

A REX aeroplane was forced to circle Wagga airport for nearly an hour last night when landing lights failed on the tarmac, sparking a rushed effort by council to erect emergency lighting.

Thirty-two passengers aboard flight ZL677 plane from Sydney were due to fly into Wagga at 6.10pm last night, but were stuck circling the sky above Wagga until 7.05pm while emergency lights were switched on.

Last night, the *Advertiser* was contact by several passengers who were onboard the flight.

One passenger reported that his wife, who was awaiting his arrival in the terminal, was told by the airline that they were considering diverting the plane to Albury.

“What made me sit up and open my eyes was that we felt like we were landing and then the plane increased power again. It made me think

something was going on,” the passenger said.

“There was certainly a considerable delay between the aborted landing and the advice from the captain that needed to keep circling due to the runway lights.”

A spokeswoman from Rex said the captain did attempt to land, but when he was notified by airport staff that only one side of the runway had its landing lights operating, he was forced to circle the airport for an hour.