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Rex flying high for Isa

EMMA CILLEKENS
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MOUNT Isa residents will now have more opportunities to travel to and from Townsville.

Regional Express (REX) has added two return flights from Mount Isa to Townsville from June 14 to its schedule.

The new flights will leave Mount Isa on Friday and Sunday at 2.50pm and arrive in Townsville at 4.50pm.

It means the airline will now fly to and from Townsville 11 times each week.

REX network strategy and sales general manager Warrick Lodge said the airline had added the extra services because demand had increased.

"We've found that our flights on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning have been performing very strongly, so much so that there was a need to put on additional flights," he said.

"It really just provides another option for people who want to go to Townsville for the weekend and found it difficult to get out of Mount Isa on a Friday and back on a Sunday."

Mr Lodge said if demand continued the airline would look at putting on more services.

"We're only four months into operation, so it's difficult to pick up trends in growth, but if we see it continue there could be more flights to Townsville from Mount Isa."

But Mr Lodge ruled out any longer routes in the near future.

"We don't have the capacity to fly to Brisbane from Mount Isa or Alice Springs from Mount Isa because they are longer flights."

REX has been operating non-stop services between Townsville and Mount Isa since February.

The expansion of its service comes as another carrier, Regional Pacific Airlines, has suspended its service to the city temporarily.

Mount Isa Airport confirmed the airline had not been flying in and out of Mount Isa.

Airport manager Jennifer Welk said Regional Pacific Airlines'most recent flight was close to two months ago.