

28 FEBRUARY 2013

## MEDIA RELEASE

### DUBBO MAYOR NOT COMMITTED TO FINDING SOLUTION

At the initiative of the Regional Express (Rex) Executive Chairman, a meeting was held today with the Mayor of Dubbo to explore solutions to the deadlock on the security screening charges issue at Dubbo airport.

On 25 February 2013, Dubbo City Council (DCC) passed a resolution requiring Rex passengers to be screened and to pay screening charges of about \$9 per departing passenger. Rex passengers are not required to be security screened under the Office of Transport Security (OTS) Air Transport Safety Regulations (ATSR). QantasLink's passengers travelling on the larger Dash 8 Q400 aircraft are legally required to be screened.

Rex feels that it is blatantly unfair for its passengers to be subsidising QantasLink by more than \$300,000 per annum for a requirement that is only legally applicable to QantasLink.

Following the meeting between Rex Management and the Dubbo Mayor today, Rex has formed the view that the Mayor is not committed to finding a solution in a timely manner. Consequently, Rex will set in motion plans for the redeployment of Dubbo services to other NSW regional centres that do not impose charges for airport screening. Rex will also refuse to pay any security charges imposed henceforth.

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) that represents over 100 airlines and aviation-related companies has strongly condemned the position taken by DCC: "Dubbo City Council's decision to apply screening charges to all operators, whether they trigger passenger screening or not, is unjust and should be repealed immediately. Dubbo's decision is clearly out of step with the majority of local councils with RPT airports."

"In short, the RAAA believes that if an operator is captured by the security regulations it is that operator alone who should pay for the security screening charges applied by the airport owner."

The NATIONALS Leader and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Warren Truss has also weighed in on this matter: "There has been no substantial security case established to justify requiring security screening of passengers on these smaller aircraft."

Rex thanks the more than 200 concerned constituents who have lodged their protest. The petitions can be viewed at [www.rex.com.au](http://www.rex.com.au) (click on *Stop Screening Charges at Dubbo*).

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 40 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,300 weekly flights to 35 destinations throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. The Rex Group comprises Regional Express, air freight and charter operator Pel-Air Aviation and Dubbo-based regional airline Air Link, as well as the pilot academy Australian Airline Pilot Academy.

Rex currently services the Dubbo community with 8 daily services to Sydney and Broken Hill and deploys 75 of its weekly NSW regional ring-fenced Sydney airport slots during the peak periods to these services.

