

Colourful planes are bound for Thailand

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By DAISY HUNTLY

TWO blinding streaks of colour flew over Wagga last Sunday, as planes leased by Regional Express (Rex) made their way to Thailand.

The streamlined Saab 340B turboprop planes flew out of Wagga Airport on the morning of January 3, after having checks done and being housed in local hangars.

A month behind schedule because of technical issues and an impressive makeover, the planes were flown to Thailand by Rex pilots for the official hand-over to Thai commuter carrier, SGA Airlines.

Communications officer for Rex, Candice Teo, said the planes were in Wagga for a period of time before they took to the skies.

"(They were in Wagga) not too long, the painting was done elsewhere and then they came back to Wagga," she said.

The paintwork was



BRIGHT SKIES: These Saab 340B turboprop planes flew out of Wagga on their way to Thailand last Sunday. Picture: Regional Express

carried out on the exterior of the planes to create colourful, bird-like aircraft that matches the corporate image of their new company.

The transformation from the regular Rex

paintwork to the new, easy-on-the-eye skin boasted by the planes sets them apart from the rest of the fleet.

While in Wagga, the planes were held in Rex's section at

the airport.

A key reason for Rex to select Wagga for the storage location was because the airline has its engineering base in the city, Ms Teo said.

The aircraft were

part of the Rex fleet and have been leased to SGA Airlines, which has allowed the Thai company to set a launch date to a new destination six weeks ahead of schedule.