

## News Release

### REX ANNOUNCES EXTRA FLIGHTS

**25 September 2003:** Regional Express (Rex) is boosting its schedules on a number of routes across south eastern Australia to cater for growing demand from air travellers.

Executive general manager commercial Hans van Pelt said new flights would be introduced to Coober Pedy, the Northern Rivers (Ballina and Lismore) and Orange from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

#### ***Coober Pedy***

Rex is introducing an additional flight on Thursdays to provide a daily return service to Adelaide on Sunday through Friday. This will provide further flexibility for business and tour operators, with a total 12 flights per week available between Adelaide and Coober Pedy.

The boost in capacity is required because of a surge in demand from passengers following the joint initiative between Rex and the District Council of Coober Pedy to lower airfares.

Fares between Adelaide and Coober Pedy start from \$169 one-way at [rex.com.au](http://rex.com.au).

#### ***Northern Rivers***

A new Saturday service is being introduced to provide additional capacity required to cater for the strengthening leisure market between Sydney and Lismore/Ballina. The new schedule will offer 52 flights per week between Lismore and Sydney and 41 flights per week between Ballina and Sydney.

Passenger demand has increased significantly following the introduction of cheaper tickets through the joint initiative between Rex and the Ballina and Lismore Councils to lower fares for each community.

Prices between Sydney and Ballina and Sydney and Lismore start from \$99 one-way at [rex.com.au](http://rex.com.au).

The extra Saturday service comes after Rex doubled its afternoon capacity to the Northern Rivers on Sunday through Friday flights from 15<sup>th</sup> September.

#### ***Orange***

Rex is extending its schedule between Orange and Sydney to 48 flights a week with the lunchtime return service to operate every weekday with the addition of flights on Monday and Tuesday.

This will provide greater flexibility for business travellers as well as access to a larger number of discount fares for leisure customers. Rex has experienced increasing demand for its lunchtime flights since they were introduced on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

New fares will be announced soon for Orange as a result of the joint agreement between Rex and Orange City Council that will see both making a financial commitment to offer attractive new prices to encourage more travellers to use the local airport.

#### ***Passenger growth***

"The groundbreaking agreements between Rex and local airport operators have had a significant impact on passenger demand. In the case of Lismore, Council has just reported the second highest weekly passenger numbers in over ten years," Mr van Pelt said.

"The response to these initiatives from travellers gives us confidence that the extra services we are announcing today will be a success."

Mr van Pelt said the partnerships with regional airport operators had brought new fares to Ballina, Coober Pedy, Lismore, Moruya, Merimbula, Narrandera and Parkes. Final arrangements are being made with local councils for the introduction of new lower prices to Griffith and Orange.

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