

5 August 2024

## **Regional Aviation Businesses Supporting Regional Communities.**

Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) members are continuing to support regional, rural, and remote communities across Australia in the wake of Regional Express (Rex) entering voluntary administration.

The RAAA shares community concerns for all affected by the administration of Rex, especially the regional communities serviced by the airline and the dedicated staff involved. The RAAA highlights the importance of industry playing a key role in working with Government to ensure the best possible outcome for these communities, long term sustainability of regional aviation, and the Australian taxpayer.

The welfare and connectivity of regional and rural Australians is at the core of our organisation's purpose, and the RAAA is a key stakeholder in any government decision on this topic.

The safe, vibrant, and successful regional aviation industry we have in Australia is much more than just one airline or aviation related business. Regional aviation includes multiple airlines and aviation businesses supporting regional communities throughout the country.

"Aviation is the lifeblood of regional Australia and RAAA member airlines connect people, communities and businesses across our vast nation every day" RAAA Chief Executive Officer Rob Walker said.

"Whilst Government considers the support required to ensure the continuation of essential regional air routes, the RAAA urges Government to carefully consider all regional airlines that are currently servicing or are capable of servicing affected routes, and not to focus on any one individual operator" Mr Walker said.

The RAAA welcomes competition, and our member airlines compete daily on regional routes providing world class aviation services. It is important that competition is fair, and any proposed industry assistance is provided appropriately.

Our members are ready and willing to assist. We all want to ensure the ongoing viability of aviation services to all affected regional, rural, and remote communities and ongoing employment for the people who provide those services.

The RAAA will continue to work with all levels of government and the broader aviation industry to ensure the long-term viability of our great industry and the benefits we provide to the communities we serve.

With the imminent release of the Aviation White Paper, the RAAA hopes that the Government's longer-term strategies for the aviation industry will go beyond a focus on decarbonisation and will also address real cost

# MEDIA ADVISORY



reductions, equity in investment of training costs, ongoing removal of red tape, and consideration around the true costs of providing regional services in modern aircraft.

Our regional and rural communities require long term commitments to ensure connectivity. This event shows how economically challenging it is for all airlines to provide aviation services throughout Australia, and how important it is for government and industry to work together to provide crucial services.

“All sectors of the Australian aviation industry must step up and work together. Governments, regulators, aviation agencies, airlines, airports, and industry suppliers must ensure regional aviation thrives and grows stronger for the benefit of the regional communities we serve” said Malcom Sharp, Chair of the RAAA.

Ends.

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The RAAA represents aviation across Australia. It has over 125 members and its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) holding members directly employ over 2,500 Australians, many in regional areas. On an annual basis, the RAAA’s AOC members jointly turn over more than \$1.5 billion, carry well in excess of 2 million passengers and move over 23 million kilograms of freight. Our Regional Airport members also provide and manage critical infrastructure across Australian.