10 115 for Regional Australia

Media Release Michael McCormack MP

The Nationals Member for Riverina

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Regional passengers just as important: McCormack

Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack called on Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese to provide stability for Regional Airlines.

Mr McCormack revealed in a speech to Parliament today, that there has been no action from the Labor Government regarding the en-route rebate scheme for regional aviation despite promises to reform it.

"Regional air services provide access to a whole range of services, those in major cities take for granted. They bring health, medical, and a whole range of government and community services and provide a basis for economic growth."

The en-route rebate scheme is the only form of government assistance provided to regional airlines and the annual price of about \$6 million is a small price for the Government to pay for sustainable provision of critical regional air services," Mr McCormack argued.

"Regional airlines, such as REX, need the ability to plan ahead with confidence for the development of services they currently provide, including Griffith and Narrandera, as well as looking at potential new services to remote and regional communities which desperately need them," Mr McCormack said.

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