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Carbon tax could hit regional air services

Regional airlines in Tasmania have warned they may have to cut air services to the bush, under the carbon tax.

The head of the nationwide carrier Regional Express, Chris Hine, says increases to the tax on aviation fuel will force many smaller operators out of business.

Mr Hine has released a statement saying the bigger companies will be forced to cut back on marginal routes to maintain business.

He's called on the government to exclude regional carriers from the tax, because regional aviation is already struggling.

Representatives from other Tasmanian carriers, Tasair and Sharp Airlines have told the ABC they share Rex's concerns, but are yet to determine the effect on their businesses.