

Source: ABC News Online, 7 Nov 07.

Kelly urges Fed Govt to address pilot shortage

The New South Wales Minister for Regional Development and Rural Affairs, Tony Kelly, says it is up to the Federal Government to come up with a scheme to help train pilots to address the current pilot shortage.

The shortage has forced Regional Express Airlines (Rex) to drop a third of flights between Wagga Wagga and Sydney until Christmas.

Mr Kelly says it costs \$80,000 to \$90,000 to train a pilot and the Federal Government has given no assistance.

He says the problem would only get worse if the Federal Government would not step in.

"Look, this is a skills shortage that Rex has identified for some time now and the Federal Government should be doing something about getting serious about addressing this skills shortage and assisting with the pilot shortage in Australia," he said.