

**Source: ABC News Online, 7 May 2008**

## **Rex cancels winter flights to ski fields**

People planning to fly to the Snowy Mountains this winter will have fewer choices, with the regional airline Rex suspending its Sydney to Cooma route indefinitely.

Regional Express Airlines (Rex) had already cancelled its summer schedule to the Snowy Mountains, but was hoping to resume services in time for the winter ski season.

It says a pilot shortage, high attrition rates and aggressive recruiting by major carriers mean the flights cannot be reliably staffed.

The airline says it hopes to be in a stronger position when a new batch of cadet pilots graduate from the Australian Airline Pilot Academy later this year.

Snow River shire mayor Richard Wallace says the success of this year's ski season will be threatened by the loss.

"Everyone has been excited up here with the early snowfalls, looking forward to a great year and then we get this setback," he said.

Rex says it may have to also cut other services across New South Wales because of the pilot shortage.