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Rex to use cadet scheme to address pilot shortage

Regional Express Airlines (Rex) says it is working at addressing the pilot shortage that has caused it to reduce its flight schedules to many locations.

While Port Lincoln flights will not be affected, the Mount Gambier route will be - with several flights already cut.

Warrick Lodge from the company says Rex hopes to address the shortage with the company's cadet program, especially after more than 1,500 people applied for the program's initial 20 spots.

Mr Lodge says many of the airline's pilots are poached by the major airlines and the cadet program should address this.

"Part of our cadet program entails a scholarship program and a bonding to Rex post their employment with the organisation

"We're actually putting up front most of the training costs which will be loaned to the cadet and paid back over a number of years after they start flying with Rex, so that's what we're doing to address that issue."