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MEDIA RELEASE

REX LAUNCHES NEWCASTLE SERVICES

Regional Express (Rex) today officially launched its Newcastle services jointly with Newcastle Airport Limited (NAL) in a ceremony held at Newcastle Airport.

On hand to witness the launch were guests and VIPs including Shadow Minister for Tourism The Hon. Bob Baldwin, Member for Maitland The Hon. Robyn Parker, Executive Director & GM Destination NSW, Lyndel Gray, Ballina Shire and Port Stephen Council representatives as well as senior management from the local tourism organisations.

Commenting on the new service, GM Network Strategy and Sales Warrick Lodge said, "Rex has been consistently rated the best regional airline in the world and we are confident that with our proven model of reliable service, affordable fares and old-fashioned country hospitality, in partnership with Newcastle Airport and the Ballina Shire Council, we can deliver significant and tangible benefits to both the Newcastle and Ballina Byron Bay regions."

Rex's commencement of services between Newcastle and Sydney as well as Ballina Byron Bay has been well-received by Destination NSW as well as the wider business community.

Commencing 30 October 2011, Rex will provide 3 return services between Newcastle and Sydney Monday to Friday as well as convenient Saturday and Sunday flights, making a total of 38 weekly flights between Newcastle and Sydney.

There will also be a new daily return service between Newcastle and Ballina / Byron Bay.

"Newcastle Airport, being a community owned asset prides itself in serving its local community and shares this value with Rex." said David Nye, Newcastle Airport Manager Aviation Business Development.

"The daily service to Ballina will provide a valuable link between our region and Northern New South Wales for both business and tourism," he added.

Ballina Shire Council Mayor Phillip Silver enthusiastically welcomed the new Rex service, "This is another great shot in the arm for our region. Community engagement with Ballina Shire residents reported heightened interest in opening up access to other regional areas, particularly Newcastle. The new Newcastle to Ballina Byron Rex service will provide our region with more travel choice and allow the Northern Rivers tourism industry to confidently target another key market, being the Hunter and Central Coast."



Regional Express

A promotional fully-inclusive one-way web fare of \$99.00 for both Newcastle to Sydney and Newcastle to Ballina will be available from service commencement till Feb 2012. Reservations can be made on the web via www.rex.com.au, by phoning 13 17 13 or through your local travel agent.

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 40 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,300 weekly flights to 35 destinations throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. The Rex Group comprises Regional Express, air freight and charter operator Pel-Air Aviation and Dubbo-based regional airline Air Link, as well as the pilot academy Australian Airline Pilot Academy.

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