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## MEDIA RELEASE

### REX SLAMS MP ADAM MARSHALL FOR GRANDSTANDING

Rex is responding to a media release by Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall criticising Rex for allegedly breaking a commitment to restart services to Armidale on 31 March 2024.

Rex Executive Chairman, Lim Kim Hai, said, “If Mr Marshall is genuine about improving air services for his electorate, he could easily have picked up the phone and arranged a meeting to talk to us. Two months ago, I granted his request for a face-to-face meeting but he never showed up. It is interesting that now he is choosing to deploy a cheap political stunt for his personal agenda.”

“Rex did not make any commitments to restart services. We have always been clear on the cause of the suspension of flights and that the resumption of services between Armidale and Sydney was subject to the situation improving.”

“The situation has not improved and Rex has publicly announced that none of the cities affected by the 30% reduction in Rex’s regional network will see their services reinstated at the end of March.”

Rex, unlike its larger competitors, prefers to reduce flight frequency in advance rather than schedule phantom flights and cancel them last-minute to hoard slots at Sydney Airport.

As for Rex expanding its domestic 737 network, this is simply a matter of supply and demand like in all areas of business. Captains for regional services are next to impossible to find and Rex now has to resort to going overseas to recruit them, whereas there is still a supply within Australia of Captains for domestic jet services. These pilots are trained and endorsed on different aircraft types.

To suggest that Rex has a surplus of pilots or that Rex is expanding domestically at the cost of its regional operation is misleading and mischievous.

“If Mr Marshall thinks that his grandstanding can put pressure on Rex, he will be disappointed. Unfortunately for the city of Armidale, Mr Marshall’s antics will now put Armidale last in line for any future resumption of Rex services.”

**Rex** is Australia’s largest independent regional and domestic airline operating a fleet of 57 Saab 340 and 10 Boeing 737-800NG aircraft to 56 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the airline Rex, the Rex Group comprises wholly owned subsidiaries Pel-Air Aviation (air freight, aeromedical and charter operator), the Australian Airline Pilot Academy with campuses in Wagga Wagga and Ballarat, and propeller maintenance organisation, Australian Aerospace Propeller Maintenance. Rex is also a 50% shareholder of National Jet Express (NJE), a premier Fly-In-Fly-Out (FIFO), charter and freight operator.

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