

**Source: ABC Riverina NSW**

**The Chief Executive Officer of Airservices Australia has defended the performance of regional airlines, saying they are doing the best they can in a troubled period.**

23/12/2008 09.27 AM

Regional Express (Rex) has come under fire in recent months for cancelling some flights as it grapples with the ongoing pilot shortage.

Greg Russell was also the general manager of the former Hazelton Airlines which became part of Rex.

He says people should not be too quick to criticise.

"It is a tough business to be in. I think they've gone through a tough period and they're regrowing their capabilities," he said.

"I've been very impressed with what I've seen of Rex and how they've brought that together over the last few years.

"I think the other side of it is the airlines are very mindful of the fact that the service they provide to these regional communities and how critical it is and I'd ask you not to be too critical of them."