

**Source: ABC Regional Online – North Coast, 23 July 2008**

### **Sydney Airport urged to freeze rates**

Regional Express Airlines (REX) has called on the Sydney Airport Corporation (SACL) to hold a moratorium on all rate increases this financial year.

REX deputy chairman John Sharp says the corporation has recorded increased profits during the last six months and it should now help to ease the financial strain on airlines.

Mr Sharp says record fuel prices and the global economic crisis are making it hard for airlines to survive, while the businesses that feed off airlines are making record profits.

He says the corporation should also return 20 per cent of its 2008 financial year profits to the airlines to further help reduce the burden.

A spokesman for the Sydney Airport Corporation says it is unable to comment on REX's statements at this time.