

Rex flights guarantee provides temporary relief for regional Australia

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) welcomes the Federal Government's decision to guarantee regional flight bookings for Rex Airlines customers.

"This is a positive move for the aviation sector and will restore confidence for the many regional communities where Rex provides vital connectivity," AAA Head of Policy and Advocacy Natalie Heazlewood said.

"Regional residents have been concerned by the prospect of losing access to major cities, where they can visit family and friends or access healthcare, travel, and business opportunities.

"We encourage people in these communities to continue booking flights with Rex during this voluntary administration period and hope the government's guarantee provides some relief.

"We urge the Albanese Government to continue to do everything it can to ensure the long-term survival of Rex, particularly in regional Australia.

"The AAA has heard from many regional and remote airports detailing significant debts of close to \$4 million owed by Rex, with individual figures ranging from \$45,000 to \$650,000.

"These regional airports often operate at a loss, due to ageing infrastructure, rising security and regulatory burdens, as well as staffing costs.

"We urge the Federal Government to consider financial assistance to these airports that have continued to provide access and services to Rex and supported them to serve passengers across regional Australia.

"When we look at the whole aviation sector, our industry is still facing a competitive issue and the potential loss of our third biggest airline group would be significant.

"We're also still thinking of the hundreds of Rex employees who face an uncertain future after the airline's financial collapse.

"Airports look forward to seeing strong recommendations in the Aviation White Paper to improve airline competition, regional connectivity and lower the barriers for new airlines."

The AAA is the national voice that represents the interests of more than 340 airports and aerodromes Australia wide – from the local country community landing strip to major international gateway airports.

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