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ED20/73744
MM:jp



11 May 2020

Ms Isabelle Mauleon-Wells
Analyst | Adjudication
Merger and Authorisation Review Division
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Level 25 | 32 Turbot Street,
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Mauleon-Wells

REGIONAL EXPRESS (REX) APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION AND INTERIM AUTHORISATION TO COORDINATE SCHEDULES WITH OTHER AIRLINES - DUBBO CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT

I refer to your email dated 20 April 2020 requesting submissions in relation to Rex's application to coordinate schedules with other airlines "namely Qantas airlines who currently service the Dubbo Sydney Dubbo route via Dubbo City Regional Airport Terminal."

Council as operators of the Dubbo City Regional Airport (DRCA) provides the below information to the ACCC in response to the REX application.

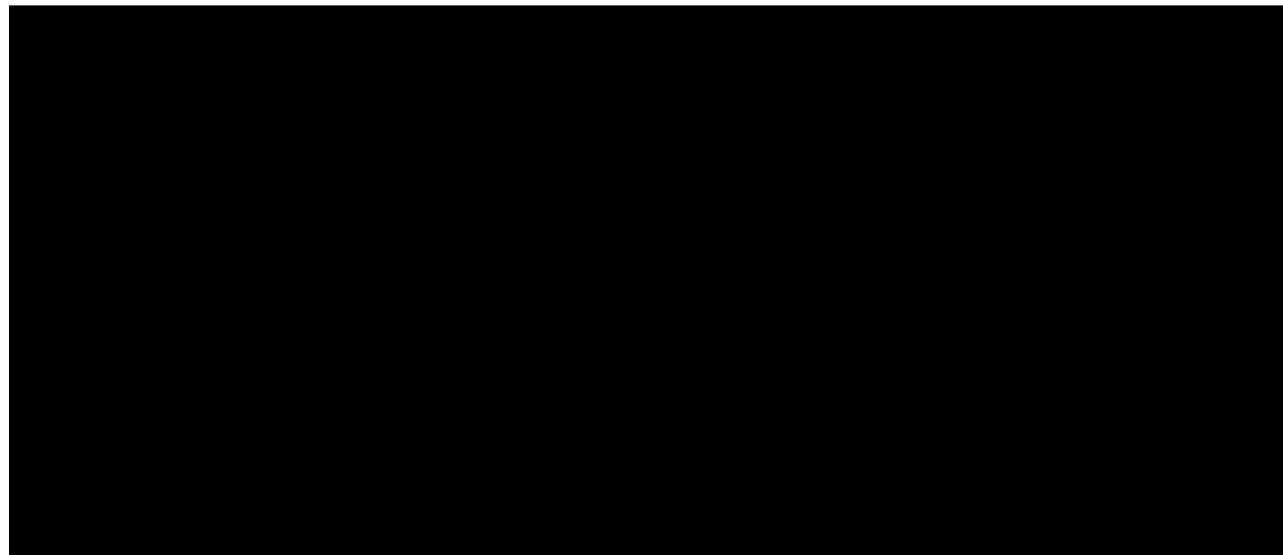
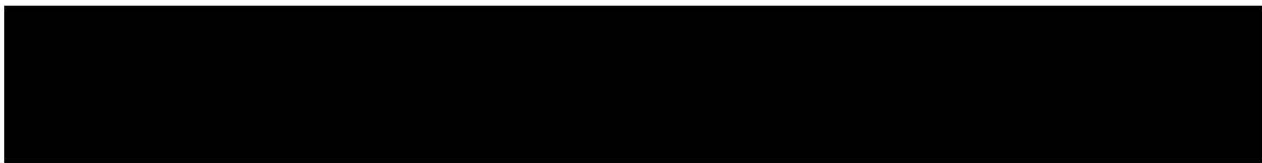
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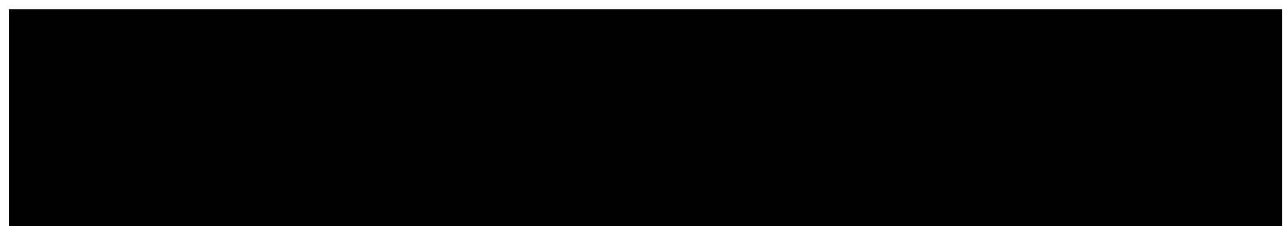
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'Rex therefore requests authorisation until 30 June 2021.'

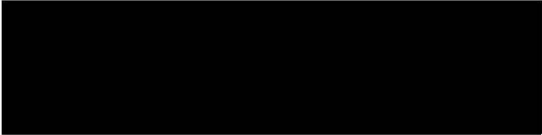
Rex have requested that the ACCC provide an approval for authorisation to coordinate schedules up until June 2021. In considering past patterns of travel of our community, and as suggested in the table above, Council are of the view that whilst sustainable regional air travel should be supported through this crisis, the ability for consumers to still have a level of choice should remain for routes where viable. Like all stakeholders, Council is not in a position to advise when certain routes would become viable, however believe that that an extension of an additional 12 months is substantial – and should be considered in a reduced timeframe in accordance with how the travelling market is responding.

Council is supportive of steps being taken to enable sustainable and competitive landscape in regional aviation for the long term. However under the required limiting of schedules Council does not support further imposition on the travelling public by removing choice of airlines for such an extended period of time.





Yours faithfully



Michael McMahon
Chief Executive Officer