



Media release

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Authorised by: Mayor Dennis Wellington

Reduction in airport fees

Albany City Council has voted to significantly reduce fees and charges at Albany Regional Airport and apply to the Office of Transport Security to remove security screening from early next year.

Regional Express will take over the regulated air route between Albany and Perth for the next five years starting on February 28, 2016.

Council last night considered a late item at its Ordinary Council Meeting to review the fees and charges and security at the airport to allow Rex to offer its flights for sale as soon as possible.

There will be a reduction of more than 30 per cent in existing passenger fees, from \$44.42 currently to \$30.48, a saving per passenger of almost \$14. This includes a full rebate on the security screening contractors' costs and a reduction in the general passenger fee.

Further, Council also voted to waive the \$7000 annual terminal lease fee for Rex, and authorised staff to begin the process to remove security screening.

The City met with Rex last week to discuss the air route and received a presentation on the airline's flight schedule for Albany, which delivers a 53 per cent increase in flights and 13 per cent increase in overall seats.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the City was very excited about the level of service and convenience Rex would bring to Albany.

"This decision to reduce our airport fees and waive the terminal lease fee is an act of goodwill by council to start a positive relationship with Rex and assist them in keeping fares competitive," Mayor Wellington said.

"The Rex schedule delivers an unprecedented number of flights between Albany and Perth.

"Of those flights, six will be overnight stops with their crew staying in Albany – that's a big investment in our city we have not had from an airline before."

Albany airport became a category 3 airport to accommodate Virgin Australia's larger aircraft and comply with the Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005 in August 2014.

Under that legislation, security screening will not be required for Rex flights due to the weight of their Saab 340 aircraft being less than the 20,000kg Maximum Take Off Weight.

"The City has no control over setting the legislation that regulates airport security and it would be unfair to impose those additional costs on the airline and passengers when it is not required by law," Mayor Wellington said.

"No security screening is in place at any regional airports where Rex operates on a regulated route and the City is keen to assist in making the Albany air route more competitive and attract more people to use the

flights and most importantly visit Albany.

“Removing the security screening will result in some job losses and the City is disappointed but we do not make the laws and will work closely with the security contractor to manage those departures.”

The City of Albany has given a commitment to work with Rex once flights have commenced to develop holiday and leisure market packages and is open to providing further incentives to achieve this outcome.

END