Albany welcomes new airline on Sunday

Albany will welcome Regional Express' (Rex) first flight from Perth to Albany this Sunday in what will be a milestone day for the airline.

Rex becomes the exclusive operator of the Albany and Esperance air routes from Sunday as the airline begins operating in WA for the first time.

Rex, which is Australia's largest independent regional airline and one of the most awarded small airlines in the world, won the State Government contract late last year to fly the regulated air routes and take over from Virgin Australia.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the City of Albany was thrilled to have such a quality small airline now servicing the region.

"Rex have a fantastic track record of offering regional flight services and our interactions to date have been very positive," Mayor Wellington said.

"The commitment from Rex to overnight planes and staff in Albany is just one indication of this commitment. We are looking forward to establishing a long-term relationship with them.

"The City has been in regular contact with the airline's management to plan the transition, we expect a seamless changeover and look forward to the arrival of the first Rex flight to Albany on Sunday."

As the first flight taxies to Albany Regional Airport, two fire trucks will welcome the aircraft with a water arch over the runway. As passengers disembark local pilots will perform a formation flyover.

The first flight will be the start of a commitment from Regional Express to deliver a 53 per cent increase in flights and 13 per cent increase in overall seats on the Albany air route.

This includes four daily return services to between Albany and Perth on weekdays, a return service on Saturday and Sunday, and six overnight flights per week.

Among the airline's awards are the Australian Traveller People's Choice Awards for Best Regional Airline in 2011, 2013 and 2014, Aviation Week Top Performing Regional Airline from 2009-2014,

Air Transport World Regional Airline of the Year in 2010, and CAPA Aviation Awards for Excellence Regional Airline of the Year in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

To book a flight with Regional Express, visit www.rex.com.au.

• *MEDIA: For opportunities to get vision and images of the first Regional Express flight arriving at Albany on Sunday, please contact Senior Reporting Officer at Albany Airport Anna Page on 9841 7372 or 0457 782 536 for access approvals.*

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