

## **T I T L E**

### **C202 REGULAR PASSENGER TRANSPORT AIRLINE COMMUNICATION POLICY**

## **D E P A R T M E N T**

Corporate Services

## **P O L I C Y D I R E C T I V E**

## **H I S T O R Y**

A meeting in Melbourne was convened on the 8th May 2014 between REX representatives (Mr Warwick Lodge and Mr David Brooksby) and the King Island Council Mayor (Greg Barratt) and Deputy Mayor (Royce Conley). It was agreed that a policy be implemented immediately to strengthen the relationship between all parties and improve communication and consultation on issues of mutual benefit.

The meeting followed a Council resolution at the 2013 November Ordinary monthly meeting of the King Island Council. Moved Cr R Conley, seconded Cr D McFie – That Council respond to Rex’s letter as follows:

1. That the Mayor and one elected member (preferably Deputy Mayor) meet with David Brooksby in Melbourne to advance the relationship between Rex, King Island Council, and the community.
2. Following the meeting – Mr Brooksby be invited to address elected members prior to the December meeting.
3. The matter of landing fees and charges applied to Rex be deferred until such time as this matter is resolved.
4. All correspondence between King Island Council and Regional Express be provided to elected members.

Council Resolution 160/2014 adopted at a Special Meeting of Council on 24 June 2014.

## **P O L I C Y O V E R V I E W**

The basis of this policy is to provide framework for Council management and staff to improve and strengthen relationships through consultation and communication between all Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) operators and the King Island Council particularly at a time when decisions are taken that may have a direct or indirect financial impact on airline services to King Island undertaken by the major carriers.

It is considered that where operational matters at the King Island Airport affect RPT operators and personnel or contract staff engaged by RPT operators provide services at the King Island Airport, these matters should also be addressed under this policy.

It is also proposed that processes should be implemented so that a partnership agreement between RPT operators and the King Island Council can be developed that would further enhance relationships and provide direction and a demonstrated commitment by the King Island community to the airlines. Each airline is to be provided with an opportunity to enter into a partnership agreement with the King Island Council.

In the first instance this policy be developed as a priority as a result of the Melbourne meeting and help consolidate airline services to Tullamarine – Burnie – Moorabbin.

Additionally, Council investigate a one-off charging system based on a head tax rather than a combination of charges currently applied to RPT operators.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES – FINANCIAL**

1. Budget decisions proposed by the King Island Council each financial year be discussed by Council management and staff and the appropriate RPT representatives prior to the adoption of the Council's annual budget.
2. Any increases must take into account the impact on airline services to King Island by RPT operators.
3. Management will seek input from RPT operators regarding the setting of airport fees and charges during budget preparation. Council has agreed to implement its schedule of fees and charges three months after the adoption of the budget. RPT operators will be advised in writing of new fees and charges at the time the budget is adopted giving operators time to absorb any increases within their fare structure.
4. Any increase in fees and charges proposed by the King Island Council must also be considered in the overall cost of providing services to aircraft operators.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES - OPERATIONAL**

RPT operators be consulted (in writing) prior to any changes to the airport that may affect their operation.

Examples include:

- a) Line-marking
- b) Apron improvements or alterations
- c) Runway extensions or upgrading that would impact on the provision of airline services
- d) Safety issues that would affect RPT personnel
- e) Terminal upgrading that may affect RPT operators
- f) Changes to radio and telecommunications systems

### **RESPONSIBILITIES – TERMINAL**

That RPT operators be consulted (in writing) on any intended plans that will effect the operation of customer service delivery that may effect their operations including:

- a) Desk space and associated equipment
- b) Storage and operation of ground service equipment and handling
- c) Access to public facilities by passengers with RPT operators

### **RESPONSIBILITIES – VIABILITY**

1. Recognising the challenges of operating an RPT service to King Island, Council fully supports current RPT operators now and into the future.
2. Council continue to lobby for the re-introduction of ERS (En-route Rebate Scheme) to the Federal Government pointing out the reliance, value and importance to small communities of regular airline services as well as strengthening the viability of airline services operators.
3. To ensure open communication and consultation RPT operators be given the opportunity to enter into a partnership agreement with the King Island Council.

Definition: Consultation and discussion means communicating proposed changes, receiving RPT operator feedback, and considering this input when making decisions.