

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL AVIATION SERVICES

Supplementary questions: Bland Shire Council

Answers are to be returned to the Committee secretariat by Friday 11 July 2014.

1. West Wyalong does not have a current RPT provider – do you believe that it could sustain a service and could you estimate passenger numbers if a service was established?

West Wyalong does not have a current RPT provider and as mentioned in our submission, Bland Shire Council maintains a fully-functional all-weather airport which has a basic Passenger Terminal available for use. Bland Shire Council plans to investigate and target RPT services and to promote economic development activities including business, education / visitor / tourism in the Bland Shire. RPT services play an important role in delivering essential government, professional, business, health and medical services to regional areas. RPT services also play an important social role in connecting individuals, families and communities with the rest of the state, country and indeed the world.

Bland Shire Council does not believe that West Wyalong could sustain a direct seven day a week RPT services, but does believe that a regular scheduled on route to and from Sydney from other departure locations on a daily / alternate daily or weekly basis could be viable. Based on the following information and not taking into consideration changes in the consumer discretionary purchasing power, the size of the aircraft, the time of the flights, and the RPT service provider, Bland Shire Council would estimate a minimum of 2,400 passengers on an annual basis.

Regional Express Airlines (REX) ceased their twice weekly RPT service to West Wyalong (WWY) on Thursday 27 September 2007.

In Financial Year 2006/2007 REX offered two returns flights per week, Tue & Thu with a 34 seat Saab, ex SYD 1.20pm arrive WWY 2.30pm, ex WWY 2.50pm arrive SYD 3.55pm. This service averaged 9 passengers per flight with the annual total passengers being 2,400.

In the previous Financial Year 2005/2006 REX offered flights on Mon, Wed & Fri and prior to that Mon, Wed, Thu & Fri on a 19 seat Metro 23. These services averaged 11 passengers per flight with the annual total passengers being 5,000.