

Security Control Status – Julia Creek Airport

Council have received correspondence from the Department of Home Affairs regarding changes to Australia's aviation security framework, and security controlled status of Julia Creek Airport. New regulations come into effect on 19 December 2020 which gives effect to a new categorisation model to classify airports. It is the Department's intention to deregulate airports that do not meet the minimum threshold, i.e. have fewer than 15,000 annual departing passengers, and are not serviced by regular public transport, or open charter aircraft, with seating capacity of more than 40 seats; the Julia Creek Airport, does not meet this criteria.

However, Regional Express (REX) have requested that Council apply under the new guidelines to be considered a Tier 3 airport thereby ensuring that current security measures in place at the airport are retained and maintained. REX have also advised that they may be obliged to suspend RPT services to non-Tier 3 airports.

As a RPT operator, REX has advised that they have an obligation under the Aviation Transport Security Regulations (ATSR 2005) to ensure the security of its operations. They advise that the outcome of operating to a non-security controlled airport is that REX will be in breach of various requirements under its Transport Security Program (TSP).

At the November Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council resolved to apply to the Department of Home Affairs requesting that the Julia Creek Airport remain a security controlled airport to enable Regional Express (REX) to continue to operate from the Julia Creek Airport and the application has been lodged.

Council is awaiting the outcome but regardless of it, Council will continue to maintain the existing security controls at the Julia Creek Airport and REX Airlines have been advised.

This should mean that REX can and will continue to operate in and out of Julia Creek.



16th December 2020