

REX AIRLINES — INTRASTATE AIR ROUTES

707. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the recent trading halt and subsequent announcement by Rex Airlines of a forecast operating loss of \$35 million and media reports that one-third of its fleet of Saab 340 aircraft are currently not in operation.

- (1) Has the state government met with Rex representatives regarding its ongoing ability to operate services in accordance with its deed of arrangement with the state government?
- (2) If yes to (1), on what dates, and please table a list of attendees?
- (3) What contingency arrangements are currently in place in the event that Rex withdraws from providing services on the regulated intrastate air routes it operates?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

Thank you, President. It has been a long week; it is only Wednesday!

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Transport.

- (1)–(3) The Department of Transport engages regularly with all airlines operating services to regional Western Australia. The department met with Rex's general manager of network strategy on 20 June 2023. Rex advised it will continue to provide air services as part of the deed of agreement between the state government and Rex.