



AUSTRALIA UPDATE

## **Sydney to Melbourne Coastal Drive Re-Opens**

**Heavy Rains for East Coast  
&  
Kangaroo Island Update**

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07 February 2020

Dear All,

I am very pleased to advise that the Princes Highway linking NSW and Victoria has finally reopened after being closed for more than a month as a result of the summer's bushfires.

Whilst the road through to Eden had opened a few weeks ago, the road was closed through much of East Gippsland, cutting off small communities and making travel along the coast impossible. These communities are slowly

getting back on their feet and need the continued support of you, our valued agents, to ensure that you keep booking your clients in these regions.

The Australian bush is harsh, but incredibly resilient and already, only a few weeks later we are seeing spouts of green return. The whole south coast is currently receiving heavy rain, which will assist the re-growth over the coming weeks and months.

Paul Cooper, from Sydney Melbourne Touring, has traveled recently from Sydney to Batemans Bay and put together a video that shows the impact in the area. You may well have seen

<https://vimeo.com/388999438>

Credit: Paul Cooper

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### **Day Tours:**

Day tours have been back running for several weeks now with some amended itineraries from operators. There is still plenty to see and do! For a comprehensive list of operators that are open, please see the below link:

<https://southaustralia.com/places-to-go/kangaroo-island/bushfires>

### **Road Closures:**

Road closures are mainly restricted to the western side of the island .

### **Park Closures:**

As of 1st February the following popular Kangaroo Island sites of Flinders Chase National Park (including Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch) is **closed until further notice** for public safety and fire recovery purposes.

For a full list, check the below link: <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/closures-and-alerts/200103-kangaroo-island-parks>

### **REX Airlines Axes KI Service as Qantas Steps Up Flights**

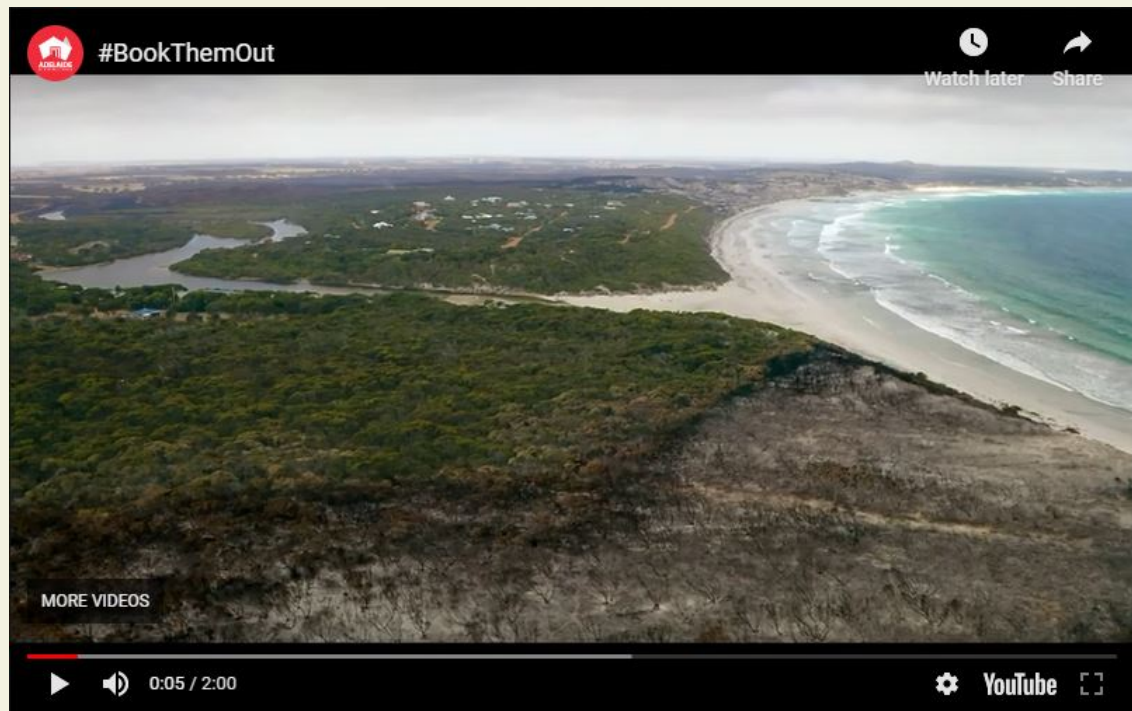
In a move that will impact higher-end day tours to Kangaroo Island that

involve flights, REX (Regional Express) has announced this week that it will axe the popular service.

Qantas will more than double its flights between Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, following the decision by Regional Express (REX) to exit the route.

From July, Qantas intends to operate 12 return services per week, throughout the year. This is an increase from its existing schedule of five return flights per week for the majority of the year, and three return services during off-peak.

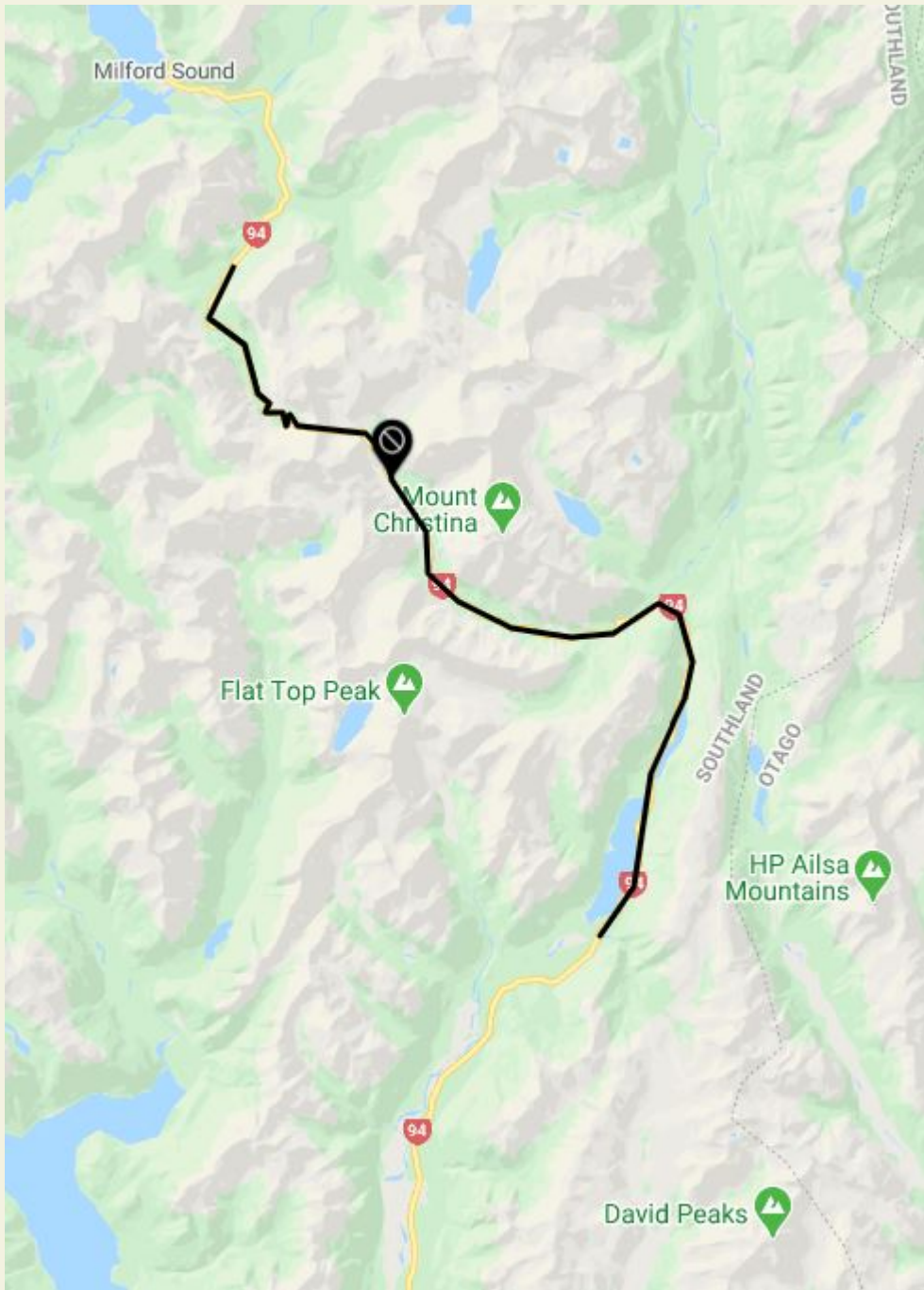
Qantas intends the schedule to include a morning and evening service offered Monday to Friday with Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon return flights.



The #bookthemout domestic tourism campaign aims at 'booking out' local operators. Your clients, with long lead-in times, continues to assist Kangaroo Island recover more quickly and assists the industry as a whole. Please see the video link for some stunning visuals of KI.

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Source: NZTA - Road closure on S94 Te Anau to Milford



- Goway has run reports of all clients that area so we know who is travelling and where.
- We are monitoring the situation closely and our consultants will contact agents on an individual basis if clients would be affected, and make necessary arrangements to assist them with any accommodation changes etc.



NZTA Road Closures & Journey Planner

<https://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/>



News:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/>

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The GOWAY team are monitoring the situation closely and taking all steps to ensure our mutual clients are best looked after, assisting with alternative arrangements as required. We will continue to provide updates as the situation develops further.



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