

July 31, 2024

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 2**

JAY NANKIVELL  
GENERAL MANAGER

# MAYORAL MINUTE

1. MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 13/24 - DATED JULY 31, 2024 - SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AIRLINES (D24/37131)..... 3

## ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

July 31, 2024

**ITEM 1**MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 13/24SUBJECT:                    SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AIRLINES                    D24/37131**Summary**

Regional aviation is essential for many rural and remote communities across Australia, including Broken Hill. Rex Airlines has been a key part of our regional transport network, providing crucial connections for residents, businesses, and visitors. These services are more than just convenient; they are vital for the social and economic well-being, health, and development of our region.

Regional aviation significantly boosts local economies by making business travel, tourism, health-related travel, and the transport of goods and services possible. The connections provided by regional airlines allow local businesses to reach wider markets, promoting economic growth and creating jobs. Additionally, air services help residents stay connected with family and friends, access essential services like healthcare and education, and participate in cultural and social activities. For many people, especially those with limited mobility or no other transport options, air travel is a crucial link to the broader community.

Moreover, regional airlines are crucial for emergency responses and health services, transporting medical staff, patients, and essential supplies. Reliable air services are necessary for delivering timely emergency and health-related services in rural and remote areas. However, the aviation industry has faced significant challenges, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rising operational costs, staff shortages, and fluctuating demand. Without ongoing support, regional routes may become financially unsustainable, leading to reduced services or cancellations, which would severely impact regional communities.

Given the recent announcement and the vital importance of regional aviation to our communities, I urge the Federal Government to continue providing financial support. It's essential to maintain and enhance financial assistance programs for regional airlines to ensure these routes remain sustainable. Measures like subsidies, grants, and tax incentives should be considered to reduce operational costs and encourage investment in regional aviation.

Additionally, it is crucial to ensure that all regional communities have fair access to air services, recognising the unique challenges and needs of rural and remote areas. We are different from our metropolitan counterparts who have plenty of competition. Promoting collaboration between federal, state, and local governments, as well as industry stakeholders, is also important. This cooperation will help develop long-term strategies for the growth and resilience of regional aviation. Investing in the development and maintenance of regional airport infrastructure to improve safety, efficiency, and capacity is also necessary.

**Recommendation**

1. That Mayoral Minute No. 13/24 dated July 31, 2024, be received.
2. That Council writes to the Prime Minister, the Federal Minister for Transport The Hon Catherine King MP, the Federal Member for Parkes The Hon Mark Coulton MP and the State Member for Barwon Mr Roy Butler requesting further support be given to all regional airlines to ensure they maintain access through operating regional routes to and from rural and remote locations, encouraging competition and therefore allowing more reasonable and fairer prices airfares for our residents and; that Council reinforces the significant role REX plays within the Broken Hill Community, providing a vital health link to Adelaide for medical staff as well as patients for lifesaving treatment.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

T. KENNEDY  
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL

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