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# **LATE ITEMS** **AGENDA**

## **Ordinary Meeting**

**Thursday 9 October 2025**

Roma Administration Centre

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Date: 8 October 2025

Mayor: Councillor W M Taylor

Deputy Mayor: Councillor C J O'Neil

Councillors: Councillor J R P Birkett  
Councillor M K Brumpton  
Councillor A K Davis  
Councillor P J Flynn  
Councillor J M Hancock  
Councillor B R Seawright  
Councillor J R Vincent

Chief Executive Officer: Robert Hayward

Executive Management: Cameron Hoffmann – Deputy CEO – Strategic Roads,  
Airports & Major Projects  
Brett Exelby – Director Corporate Services  
Seamus Batstone – Director Engineering  
Jamie Gorry – Director Regional Development,  
Environment and Planning

Attached is the agenda for the **Ordinary Meeting** to be held at the Roma Administration Centre on **9 October 2025 at 9:00 AM.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Hayward'.

Robert Hayward  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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Item No	Subject
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**L.      Late Items**

**L.1      Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund - Options for Consideration....2**  
Prepared by:    Events Attraction Officer

## **OFFICER REPORT**

**Meeting:** Ordinary 9 October 2025

**Date:** 26 September 2025

**Item Number:** L.1

**File Number:** D25/98464

**SUBJECT HEADING:** Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund - Options for Consideration

**Classification:** Open Access

**Officer's Title:** Events Attraction Officer

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### **Executive Summary:**

The Queensland State Government has recently launched a new funding initiative, the **Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF)**. This program aims to support the development of tourism infrastructure in regional areas, fostering economic growth and enhancing visitor experiences.

This report outlines the key details of the RTIF, including **available funding, objectives, and eligibility criteria**. It also seeks Council endorsement to proceed with a funding application for a selected project that aligns with the program's requirements and strategic priorities.

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Submit an application for the Injune Rail Trail for the Queensland Government's Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund to a maximum of \$300,000.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to sign the funding agreement and any other necessary documentation, if successful.

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### **Context (*Why is the matter coming before Council?*):**

The Queensland State Government has recently launched a new funding initiative, the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF). This program aims to support the development of tourism infrastructure in regional areas, fostering economic growth and enhancing visitor experiences.

This report outlines the key details of the RTIF, including available funding, objectives, and eligibility criteria. It also seeks Council endorsement to proceed with a funding application for a selected project that aligns with the program's requirements and strategic priorities.

**Background *(Including any previous Council decisions):***

**RTIF** is designed to create new or enhanced tourism related infrastructure and experiences, increase visitor expenditure and numbers, encourage longer stays, and improve the dispersal of visitors across Queensland's regions.

It aligns with the Destination 2045 Plan by fostering the development of tourism infrastructure that enhances visitor experiences, increases regional tourism capacity, and drives sustainable economic growth.

This fund supports projects that help attract more visitors, encourage longer stays, and increase visitor spending in communities outside of South-East Queensland.

The Department of Environment, Tourism, Science, and Innovation (DETSI) is committed to releasing annual \$5 million rounds of funding for 4 years.

**Available funding**

- Up to \$300,000 (ex GST) per project. Applications over \$300,000 (ex GST) may be considered.
- No co-contribution required. Any project costs exceeding the grant amount must be covered by the applicant.

**Eligible projects:**

To be eligible for funding consideration, a project must:

- Demonstrate strong economic outcomes for the region.
- Align with initiatives included in the Queensland Government's Destination 2045 Plan and/or relevant Regional Tourism Organisation's Destination Management Plans.
- Have in-principle support from local government and Traditional Owners (if required).
- Have the relevant permits, approvals, and detailed designs in place or be substantially advanced in achieving the approval necessary to commence the project.
- Be ready to commence construction within six (6) months of funding approval.

Funding cannot be used for a project which has commenced, but it can be used for different and distinct elements or stages of the project. The applicant must be the legal owner of any assets purchased with the funding.

**Funding priorities:**

Projects will be prioritised if they:

- Create **new**, or enhance **existing**, tourism infrastructure to attract more visitors and improve regional tourism outcomes.
- Improve accessibility to tourism experiences, ensuring inclusivity for all visitors.
- Align with regional tourism Destination Management Plans or local government strategic plans.
- Promote eco-tourism and sustainable practices, minimising environmental impact.
- Demonstrate clear pathways to financial independence and long-term viability, reducing reliance on public funding.
- Increase visitation and visitor expenditure.

**Key dates:**

**Program announcement:** 10 September 2025

**Applications open:** 1 October 2025

**Applications close:** **12 November 2025**

**Funding Decision Announcement:** February 2026

*\*Dates may be subject to change as required by the Department.*

**Options Considered:**

Option 1: Injune Museum Stage 2a/2b

**Total Project Cost:** \$300,000–\$1 million (approx.)

**Project Status:** Concept design completed.

**Scope:** Stage 2 could be divided into smaller stages (e.g., Stage 2a and 2b) or simplified with reduced finishes, such as replacing screen-printed walls with signage panels similar to Stage 1. Further work is required to determine which elements of the concept design are best suited to a staged approach.

**Project Funding Priority Alignment:** Low

Option 2: Journey Through Time Upgrade

**Total Project Cost:** \$637,200 (estimated).

**Project Status:** Planning phase

**Scope:** Detailed designs and construction of Journey Through Time.

**Project Funding Priority Alignment:** Moderate

Option 3: Big Rig Night Show & AV Upgrades

**Total Project Cost:** Unknown

**Project Status:** Not started.

**Project Funding Priority Alignment:** Moderate

Option 4: Injune Rail Trail Construction – future sections

**Total Project Cost:** \$731,830 (estimated)

**Project Status:** Section 2 under construction.

**Scope:** Further works to a maximum of \$300,000.

**Project Funding Priority Alignment:** Strong

Option 5: Maranoa Riverwalk

**Total Project Cost:** Unknown

**Project Status:** Master Plan completed.

**Scope:** Unknown

**Project Funding Priority Alignment:** Moderate

Option 6: Sculptures Out Back

**Total Project Cost:** Unknown

**Project Status:** Master Plan completed.

**Scope:** Construction of bollards, irrigation, and pathways as per Master Plan.

**Project Funding Priority Alignment:** Moderate-Strong

Option 7: Surat Riverwalk Lighting Project (Stage 1 or 2)

**Total Project Cost:** \$200,000 for Stage 1 or 2

**Project Status:** Shovel Ready

**Scope:** Construction of either Stage 1 or Stage 2 of the project.

**Funding Alignment:** Moderate

Option 8: Do not apply for funding (Round 1)

Council may choose **not to apply** for Round 1 funding.

There will be further rounds of RTIF funding. DETSI is committed to releasing annual \$5 million rounds of funding for 4 years.

Council may choose to allocate future budget resources to developing detailed designs or project plans for other development of detailed designs for a range of tourism attractions across the Maranoa. This proactive approach would ensure Council is better positioned to take advantage of future funding opportunities and future rounds.

**Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Submit an application for the Injune Rail Trail for the Queensland Government's Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund to a maximum of \$300,000.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to sign the funding agreement and any other necessary documentation, if successful.

## Risks:

Risk	Description of likelihood & consequences
Missed opportunity to secure external funding	<p>Likelihood: Low</p> <p>If Council does not submit a funding application for the projects, they may need to be fully funded either by Council or the project's organising group. This would place a significant financial burden on both parties and could potentially result in the projects not being delivered.</p>
Unsuccessful grant application	<p>Likelihood: Medium</p> <p>The grant application may be unsuccessful, resulting in the project either not being funded or being underfunded.</p>

## Policy and Legislative Compliance:

Applications will need to be compliant with the program guidelines.

## Budget / Funding (*Current and future*):

No co-contribution is required for RTIF. However, any project costs exceeding the grant amount must be covered by the applicant.

### Option 4

Current funding: \$30,000 allocated in current budget for Section 2

Future funding: Funding application to a maximum of \$300,000.

## Timelines / Deadlines:

Program announcement: **10 September 2025**

Applications open: **1 October 2025**

Applications close: **12 November 2025**

Funding Decision Announcement: **February 2026**

*\*Dates may be subject to change as required by the Department.*

## Consultation (*Internal / External*):

### Internal:

- Lead Local Development Officer – Roma
- Manager - Tourism & Community Development
- Director - Regional Development, Environment & Planning
- Councilor Briefing Session – 8 October 2025

## Strategic Asset Management Implications:

*(If applicable, outline changes to whole of life costs and / or level of service)*

**Acronyms:**

Acronym	Description
DETSI	Department of Environment, Tourism, Science, and Innovation
RTIF	Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund
WO	Work Order

**Addition to Operational or Corporate Plan:**

Plan Description	Yes / No
Operational	
Corporate	

**Link to Corporate Plan:**

Corporate Plan 2023-2028

Corporate Plan Pillar 1: Prosperity

1.3 Tourism destination development infrastructure

**Supporting Documentation:**

Nil

**Report authorised by:**

Director - Regional Development, Environment & Planning