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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARANOA REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD AT ROMA ADMINISTRATION CENTRE ON 18 MARCH 2026 SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE AT 11:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Cr W M Taylor chaired the meeting with Deputy Mayor Cr C J O'Neil, Cr J R P Birkett (By Microsoft Teams), Cr M K Brumpton, Cr A K Davis, Cr J M Hancock, Cr B R Seawright, Cr J R Vincent (By Microsoft Teams), Chief Executive Officer – Robert Hayward and Kelly Rogers Minutes Officer in attendance.

**AS REQUIRED**

Deputy CEO - Strategic Roads, Airports & Major Projects – Cameron Hoffmann.

**WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 11.05am.

**APOLOGIES**

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Resolution No. SM/03.2026/01</b>  |                             |
| <b>Moved Cr Davis</b>  | <b>Seconded Cr Brumpton</b> |
| <b>That apologies be received and leave of absence granted for Cr. Flynn for this meeting.</b> |                             |
| <b>CARRIED</b>   | <b>8/0</b>                  |

**BUSINESS**

|                         |   |                               |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Item Number:</b>     | <b>31</b>   | <b>File Number: D26/17973</b> |
| <b>SUBJECT HEADING:</b> | <b>REGULATED AIR SERVICES ROUTE INTO ROMA   COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS</b> |                               |
| <b>Officer's Title:</b> | <b>Deputy CEO - Strategic Roads, Airports &amp; Major Projects</b>  |                               |

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**Executive Summary:**  
*The Queensland Government, through the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR), is currently undertaking a statewide review of regulated regional air services to inform the next regulated air service contracts, with current arrangements due to expire in December 2026.*

*Given the importance of air services to the Maranoa region for access to health services, education, government services, business activity and social connectivity, Council previously resolved to undertake a targeted community survey to capture updated feedback on the current passenger air services operating between Roma and Brisbane.*

*The survey was undertaken in February 2026 and attracted 649 responses, making it one of the largest community survey responses received by Council on a single issue. The results highlight strong community interest in the future of air services into Roma and provide valuable insight into current experiences and priorities.*

*Key themes identified through the survey include concerns regarding affordability, seat availability, reliability, connectivity to other destinations, baggage allowances and freight capability, as well as the importance of flight scheduling that supports same-day travel for business and medical appointments.*

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*The findings provide an updated evidence base to inform Council's advocacy position as part of the State Government's consultation on regulated regional air services.*

*This report presented a summary of the survey outcomes and seeks Council's consideration of providing a formal submission to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, advocating for improved service outcomes for the Maranoa community.*

**Resolution No. SM/03.2026/02**

**Moved Cr O'Neil**

**Seconded Cr Hancock**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receive and note the results of the community survey undertaken in February 2026 regarding passenger air services operating into and out of Roma Airport.**
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to prepare and submit a formal response to the Department of Transport and Main Roads as part of the State Government's consultation on regulated regional air services, with the submission advocating for the following strategic outcomes:**
  - \* Retention of regulated air service for the Roma–Brisbane route.**
  - \* Implementation of a State Government initiated resident airfare scheme as part of future contract arrangements, reducing the need for individual councils to negotiate resident fare schemes directly with airlines.**
  - \* Recognition that Roma Airport represents a strategic aviation asset for the State, with infrastructure capable of accommodating larger regional aircraft such as the De Havilland Canada Dash 8-400.**
  - \* Improved affordability, reliability and connectivity for passengers travelling to and from Roma.**
  - \* Flight frequency and scheduling that improves opportunities for same-day travel, particularly for business travel and medical appointments.**
  - \* A service provider capable of providing greater seating capacity, improved baggage allowances and stronger connectivity into broader regional, national and international aviation networks.**
  - \* A service provider to support the movement of freight in addition to passenger services, recognising the importance of regional aviation for time-sensitive freight movements.**
  - \* A service provider with the ability to supplement baseline services with additional flights during peak periods, including major regional events or seasonal tourism demand, and potential connections to key regional tourism destinations (e.g. Longreach) during tourist season where viable.**
  - \* A service provider with the ability to supplement baseline services with a broader mix of flights that include the option of Toowoomba as a port to support the needs of the community – including broader commerce, education, health and medical reasons.**
- 3. Request the Queensland state government to not extend the regulated air service contract and go to tender at the earliest opportunity.**

*[Following progressive discussions an additional statement was included under point 2, as was point 3]*

**CARRIED**

**8/0**

**Responsible Officer**

**Deputy CEO - Strategic Roads, Airports & Major Projects**

## **CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked Council for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 11.29am.

**These Minutes are to be confirmed at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 24 March 2026, at Roma Administration Centre.**