

File: 13/10/22
11 March 2026

Dear Commissioner

LETTER OF SUPPORT – INQUIRY INTO DETERMINANTS OF REGIONAL AIRFARES

The Mildura Rural City Council Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) wishes to formally express its support for Council's submission to the *Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Determinants of Regional Airfares*.

As an advisory body representing key industries, employers, and community interests across the Mildura region, TAC recognises that reliable and affordable air services are fundamental to our economic resilience, social equity, and long-term regional development. Mildura's unique tri-state role, its lack of passenger rail, and the essential nature of air travel for business, health, emergency services and specialist workforces highlight aviation as a critical enabler of regional productivity and liveability.

TAC strongly supports the major priorities outlined in Council's submission, including:

- Investment in essential airport infrastructure, particularly the upgrade of Runway 09/27, which underpins service reliability, safety, and the capacity to attract and sustain efficient aircraft types.
- Measures that improve airfare affordability, especially for residents, students, medical travellers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, and those for whom travel is a necessity rather than a choice.
- Support for route development and airline risk-reduction mechanisms, which can stimulate competition, improve load factors, and enable more stable airfare levels over time.
- Recognition of Mildura as a strategic regional hub, whose industries—including agriculture, mining, construction, and renewable energy—depend on timely air access for specialist and FIFO workforces.
- Future-focused opportunities such as Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), which have the potential to enhance both economic value and long-term operational sustainability across regional aviation networks.

Our Committee is confident that the combination of infrastructure investment, targeted affordability measures, and right-sized regulatory settings will materially improve air service reliability and affordability for Mildura and its

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broader catchment. This, in turn, will enhance and grow the region's \$380M visitor economy.

TAC commends the Commission for undertaking this inquiry and stands ready to contribute further insights if required.

Yours sincerely

CAMILLE MANSELL
CHAIR - TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CM/pp