



**Deputy Premier
Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Sport and Recreation**

Our ref: 72-64339

Ms Virginia Miltrup
Chief Executive Officer
City of Karratha
PO Box 219
KARRATHA WA 6714

Dear Ms Miltrup

The State Government recognises the critical role affordable airfares play in supporting regional communities and recently announced a significant \$122 million investment to support capped airfares through the Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme for another five years until 30 June 2031.

The Scheme has successfully reduced air-travel costs for regional residents, however, annual increases in airport fees and charges by airport authorities have continued to place financial pressures on the Scheme.

We know that during this time of global uncertainty, Western Australians families are feeling the impact of rising fuel prices and recent interest rate hikes, which is why we are continuing to look at ways to deliver meaningful, targeted cost-of-living support.

I am now seeking your support in maintaining the affordability of regional airfares and the sustainability of the Scheme which has delivered substantial benefits to regional communities across Western Australia, including yours.

From 1 July 2026, the revised Scheme will introduce a new policy approach under which increases in airport fees and charges could be incorporated into the zone cap fare paid by regional residents departing from the affected airport.

Any increases in fees and charges could potentially impact the affordability of these fares to your residents.

In this context, I respectfully request your organisation pauses any increases in airport fees and charges applicable to Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme passengers during the Scheme's operation.

Your support would reflect a shared commitment to affordable regional air fares for your community.

I have asked the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure to engage with your team to support this initiative, and I thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

I look forward to your partnership in supporting regional Western Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rita Saffioti', with a large, stylized 'R' and 'S'.

HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

02 APR 2026