



Frequently Asked Questions

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL AIRFARES IN WA - IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

What is the Government's response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Regional Airfares?

The State Government recognises that affordable airfares are an important economic and community issue for regional WA.

The State Government has considered and responded to all 48 findings and 13 recommendations from the Final Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Regional Airfares.

The supported recommendations arising from the inquiry into regional airfares will be explored in more detail through a review of the State Aviation Strategy.

The Government's full response to the inquiry recommendations can be found at [http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tables/papers.nsf/displaypaper/4011255a575b98511f76822c4825826c0008d2de/\\$file/1255.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tables/papers.nsf/displaypaper/4011255a575b98511f76822c4825826c0008d2de/$file/1255.pdf)

What is the timeline for the review of the State Aviation Strategy?

An interdepartmental working group, the WA Regional Aviation Taskforce, has been established to help guide the review of the State Aviation Strategy. The working group is chaired by the Department of Transport and includes the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Consultation with airlines, local governments, the mining industry, corporations and communities will occur across WA to help inform the review of the State Aviation Strategy.

Through March and April 2019, the Department of Transport (DoT) Aviation Team facilitated workshops and community information drop-ins in the towns of Broome, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Kununurra, Newman, Paraburdoo and Port Hedland; with Onslow still to come.

DoT has commenced the collection of more detailed data on unregulated air routes, and independent surveys will also be conducted on each Regular Public Transport air route to collect data and information to better understand the challenges and assess the prevailing market dynamics associated with regional airfares.

A revised draft State Aviation Strategy will be provided for consideration to the Minister for Transport in late 2019, the draft Strategy will be released for public comment thereafter.

What is the focus of the review of the State Aviation Strategy?

The primary focus of the review of the State Aviation Strategy is on the unregulated intrastate air routes within WA.

The review will explore in greater depth the individual route dynamics and collect data and feedback from local governments, airlines, industry and community, to determine what can be done to address community concerns about high airfares and explore opportunities to improve current and proposed infrastructure and aviation services in regional WA.

Transparency, community engagement, collaboration and innovation will be central themes for the Government's approach to the review of the State Aviation Strategy.

Collection of data and stakeholder feedback is essential to reflect the current market conditions and dynamics since the original release of the State Aviation Strategy in 2015. The Government will engage extensively with stakeholders and the community, the outcomes of this engagement will be reflected in a revised State Aviation Strategy.

While the State Aviation Strategy review will largely focus on unregulated air routes in Western Australia, community engagement and stakeholder consultation will continue to occur on regulated air routes through biannual Community Consultation Group (CCG) meetings. Community and stakeholder feedback can be raised through this forum and will be fed into the State Aviation Strategy, as needed.

What air routes will the review focus on?

The review of the State Aviation Strategy will largely focus on but will not be limited to, the currently unregulated intrastate air routes in Western Australia, which includes the below routes:

1. Perth-Broome
2. Perth-Geraldton
3. Perth-Kalgoorlie
4. Perth-Karratha
5. Perth-Kununurra
6. Perth-Newman
7. Perth-Paraburdoo
8. Perth-Port Hedland
9. Perth-Onslow

The State Government currently regulates the following air routes in WA:

1. Perth-Albany
2. Perth-Esperance
3. Perth-Monkey Mia-Carnarvon
4. Perth-Leonora-Laverton
5. Perth-Mt Magnet-Meekatharra-Wiluna
6. Perth-Learmonth (Exmouth)

The State Government sets several requirements that airlines must meet and report on for air routes regulated through the Department of Transport.

Regulated air routes have a maximum airfare set and airlines are required to participate at regional CCG meetings. Airlines are also expected to proactively engage with the local community outside of CCG meetings to find mutually beneficial ways to lower costs, expand air route use and promote tourism. The inquiry found that community sentiment was more positive on regulated air routes, where airlines proactively engaged with the local community regarding price and service operations.

How do I participate in the review?

Updates on the implementation of relevant actions and how feedback can be provided will be published on Department of Transport website. The draft State Aviation Strategy will be available for public comment after it has been considered by the Minister in late 2019.

How can I keep up to date with progress on the review of the State Aviation Strategy?

Information and updates on the review of the State Aviation Strategy will be provided on the Department of Transport website. If you are unable to find the information, please email aviation@transport.wa.gov.au