

## Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

### Capped airfares prove popular in first year of landmark scheme.

Wednesday, 16 August 2023

- 151,181 capped airfares flown in first 12 months of Regional Airfare Zone Cap (RAZC) scheme.
- 12,858 capped airfares flown in between Esperance and Perth since commencement of the scheme.
- Initiative is making flying significantly cheaper for regional residents.
- Scheme will be in place until June 2025.

The popularity of the State Government's successful Regional Airfare Zone Cap (RAZC) scheme continues to surge with more than 150,000 airfares flown in the first year of the scheme.

The latest quarter results show more than 42,500 capped airfares were used by regional residents between April and June 2023. This is a five per cent increase on the third quarter results and brings the total amount of fares used during the first year of the scheme to 151,181.

Esperance-Perth was the fifth most popular route in Western Australia since the commencement of the scheme, with an uptake of 12,858 capped airfares until 30 June 2023.

Karratha-Perth remained the most popular route during the June 2023 quarter, with the highest uptake of 11,253 capped airfares. Kalgoorlie had the quarter's second-highest results of 5,967 fares flown, followed by Port Hedland with 5,926 and Broome with 4,371.

Geraldton, Broome, and Exmouth experienced significant growth in demand in the June 2023 quarter, with quarterly increases of 30 per cent, 27 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

The RAZC scheme launched in July 2022 and is an Australian-first initiative, delivered in partnership with six participating airlines to provide regional residents with access to capped airfares to Perth of either \$199 or \$299 one-way, when booked as a return fare for personal travel.

The State Government has committed to running the scheme over three years to June 2025.

For more information on the RAZC scheme, visit [www.farego.wa.gov.au](http://www.farego.wa.gov.au).

#### Comments attributed to Transport Minister Rita Saffioti:

"It's abundantly clear that in a time when cost of living continues to impact people's lives, this scheme is helping to alleviate what was once a significant cost for regional residents.

"To see more than 150,000 zone cap airfares booked in the first 12 months and consistent growth over the year shows the impact this scheme is having on people's lives.

"This scheme is the first of its kind in the country and is one of the key reasons we've seen strong growth in regional aviation activity over the past 12 months.

"By introducing year-round accessible and affordable capped airfares, our government has put air travel to Perth for personal reasons such specialist appointments and family reunions,

within the reach of hundreds of thousands of regional Western Australians and delivered enormous benefits to regional communities.

"On average, people are saving around \$100 for every capped airfare booked – that's more money in their pockets at a time when we know cost living pressures are having an impact.

"We're committed to supporting regional aviation and schemes like this are incredibly important because they drive the demand needed to encourage airlines to improve capacity and performance."

**Comments attributed to Agricultural Region MLC Shelley Payne**

"The Regional Airfare Zone Cap scheme has not only helped the hip pockets of Western Australian regional residents, but it has also helped to reduce travel time for people travelling to Perth", she said.

"This scheme is an important program to help keep our communities connected, whether it is for family, leisure, or medical reasons. This is evidenced by the more than 12,800 flights booked on the Esperance-Perth route in the year since the scheme started."

"I encourage Esperance residents to take advantage of the savings available through the RACZ scheme when flying return from Esperance to the metropolitan area."

**Media Contact: Kelly Brady – (08) 9072 1786**

***Attachment 1: WA Zone Cap / RAZC Fares Flown***

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Route	Zone Cap / RAZC Fares Flown				
	Q4: Apr-Jun '23	Q3: Jan-Mar '23	Q2: Oct-Dec '22	Q1: Jul-Sep '22	Grand Total (12 months)
Karratha	11,253	10,581	9,840	6,404	38,078
Kalgoorlie	5,967	5,949	5,371	3,317	20,604
Port Hedland	5,926	5,951	5,200	3,013	20,090
Broome	4,371	3,201	5,103	4,052	16,727
Esperance	2,929	3,391	3,558	2,980	12,858
Paraburdoo	2,841	2,901	2,595	2,017	10,354
Albany	2,320	2,148	2,173	1,699	8,340
Carnarvon	1,334	1,619	1,742	1,459	6,154
Exmouth	1,730	1,328	974	964	4,996
Newman	1,262	1,233	1,077	933	4,505
Geraldton	1,384	968	886	710	3,948
Kununurra	736	813	720	529	2,798
Monkey Mia	243	229	212	159	843
Leonora	79	64	69	85	297
Meekatharra	76	85	78	58	297
Laverton	47	36	63	40	186
Wiluna	19	28	29	19	95
Mount Magnet	2	6	2	1	11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>42,519</b>	<b>40,531</b>	<b>39692</b>	<b>28439</b>	<b>151,181</b>