



THE SENATE

**RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**State of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday 23 February 2026**

**Upstairs Chambers, Waratah-Wynyard Council Chambers  
21 Saunders St, Wynyard, TAS**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Witness</b>
9.00 am	<b>Waratah-Wynyard Council</b> Dr Mary Duniam, Mayor  <b>Cradle Coast Authority</b> ( <i>Submission 75</i> ) Mr Philip Reid, Chief Executive Officer  <b>Flinders Island Council</b> ( <i>Submission 58</i> ) Ms Rachel Summers, Mayor Mr Warren Groves, General Manager
10.00 am	<b>Burnie Airport</b> ( <i>Submission 60</i> ) Mr Tyler Wilson, Chief Executive Officer/Airport Manager Mr Rod Sullivan, Director/Operations & Technical Advisor
<b>10.40 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
11.00 am	<b>Hon Kerry Vincent MLC</b> ( <i>Submission 73</i> ) Tasmanian Minister for Housing & Planning, Minister for Infrastructure & Transport and Minister for Local Government  <b>Tasmanian Department of State Growth</b> Ms Cynthia Heydon, Deputy Secretary Transport Mr James Verrier, General Manager Transport Policy & Planning  <b>Tourism Tasmania</b> Mr Steve Farquer, Director Access & Aviation
11.40 am	<b>Business Northwest</b> ( <i>Submission 62</i> ) Mr Ian Jones, President  <b>Devonport Chamber of Commerce and Industry</b> ( <i>Submission 74</i> ) Ms Claire Connelly, President

Committee Chair: Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan

Committee Secretary: Patrick Hodder

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12.20 pm	<i>via teleconference:</i> <b>Hobart Airport</b> Mr Norris Carter, Chief Executive Officer  <b>Launceston Airport (Submission 59)</b> Ms Katie Cooper, Chief Executive Officer Mr Martin Grace, Aviation Manager
<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00 pm	<b>Sharp Airlines (Submission 63)</b> Mr Alistair Dorward, Chief Executive Officer Mr Malcom Sharp, Managing Director
2.40 pm	<i>via teleconference:</i> <b>King Island Council (Submission 57)</b> Mr Marcus Blackie, Mayor of King Island Ms Sarina Laidler, Councillor & Chair  <b>King Island Chamber of Commerce and King Island Regional Development Organisation (Submission 61)</b> Mr Greg Morris Ms Evelyn Caro
<b>3.40 pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

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