

**Enquiries:** Christina Tincknell  
**Phone:** (07) 4624 0672  
1300 007 662 (via Customer Service)  
**Ref No:** D19/35948

17 May 2019

Mr Miles Whiticker  
Pirate Party  
PO Box 385  
Figtree NSW 2525

**By Email:** [miles.whiticker@pirateparty.org.au](mailto:miles.whiticker@pirateparty.org.au)

Dear Mr Whiticker

### **FEDERAL COMMITMENT – CENTRELINK ROMA**

I write following a resolution of Maranoa Regional Council to seek your support as a senate candidate for the state of Queensland, to make an election commitment that if elected you will re-open the Roma Centrelink Service Centre.

At a recent Council meeting, Council considered a report seeking endorsement to advocate for the reopening of the Roma Centrelink Service Centre which was closed following a review undertaken by the Department of Human Services last year. Council at its meeting resolved as follows:

#### **Resolution No. GM/04.2019/93**

***That Council seek a formal commitment from all candidates standing for the Federal seat of Maranoa and all independent and political parties candidates standing for the Senate in Queensland that, if elected, they will re-open the Centrelink Service Centre in Roma.***

The Department of Human Services determined that the Roma Service Centre offered a limited range of services and the modest pattern of customer patronage supported the determination to not continue with a standalone service point. Council was assured that the transition to a Service Agent would be sufficient to provide health and social welfare services to the region through supported self-service channels. However, Council will continue to advocate to the federal government to reconsider this position. Feedback provided indicates that many users are not able to seek the services once provided such as face-to-face meetings that are often required for assistance payments like the Farm Household Allowance. Council was made aware that prior to the closure of the Roma Service Centre some users were driving up to eight hours to access the face-to-face service in Roma. With this centre now closed users are required to travel even greater distances.

Council strongly urges you to make this commitment not only to the people of the Maranoa Regional Council local government area, but also to the constituents of the federal electorate of the Maranoa who would benefit from vital services being accessible in regional Queensland.

Yours sincerely



Julie Reitano  
**Chief Executive Officer**