

Advanced Air Mobility: New Opportunities for SEQ



Council of Mayors
South East Queensland

Acknowledgement of Country

Council of Mayors (SEQ) and Arup acknowledges the Traditional Owners across all lands, waters, and skies our firm may reach; we acknowledge their wisdom, resilience, and rich cultural heritage. We pay our respects to the Elders, past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognise the ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation, and Arup commits to walking alongside First Nations peoples, to acknowledge their teachings and foster a future of unity and respect.

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Our Region



35,000km²

area

4.2M

current population

2.2M

jobs

by 2046

1-in-6

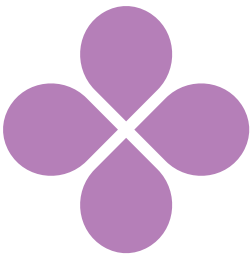
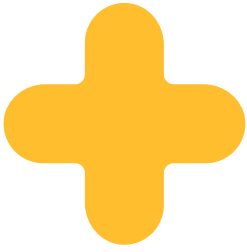
Australians to reside in
the region

6M

+2 million additional
residents

+1M

new jobs created



South East Queensland (SEQ) has a long and proud aviation history, shaped by pioneers like Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, who completed the first trans-Pacific flight, and decades of investment and innovation in airports, airfields, and supporting technology.

Today, our region is home to the nation's largest air force base, four international airports and a thriving aerospace industry – proof of our long-standing connection to the skies.

Now, a new era in aviation is taking off. Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) presents an opportunity to transform how we live, work and move – connecting communities, creating jobs and improving everyday life.

This emerging technology uses small, electric aircraft that take off and land vertically (eVTOLs), offering a fast, reliable, way to move people and goods between suburbs, towns, and cities.

From accessing essential services to emergency response and unlocking new ways to travel, AAM opens the skies to fresh possibilities for SEQ. Around the world, interest is soaring in AAM with a number of countries already exploring this technology. This means governments, industry, and communities, like ours, need to start planning now, so we're ready to get onboard.

AAM promises cleaner, quieter, and potentially more affordable travel. It also promises to deliver jobs, social benefits and significant economic growth. This document showcases some of the ways AAM could improve everyday life for people across SEQ.

But to make it work, we all need to be involved—from designing safe flight paths and landing sites to making sure it fits with our existing transport systems and community needs.

Of course, new technology brings questions. Will it be safe? Where will they fly? How will it affect noise levels? How will it fit with our roads, buses, and trains? How expensive will it be? These are important conversations. We encourage everyone to collaborate with open dialogue so we can embrace AAM in a way that reflects the needs and aspirations of SEQ residents.

While AAM is still emerging, it offers exciting possibilities for how we stay connected across SEQ. It's a chance to rethink how we move, live, and grow, revolutionising how we get around and creating new opportunities for our region.

What is AAM?

Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) describes AAM aircraft as a range of new and emerging aircraft that incorporate innovative technologies.

These aircraft combine elements of helicopters, drones and traditional aircraft with new innovations in energy storage, digitalisation, lightweight materials and automation.¹

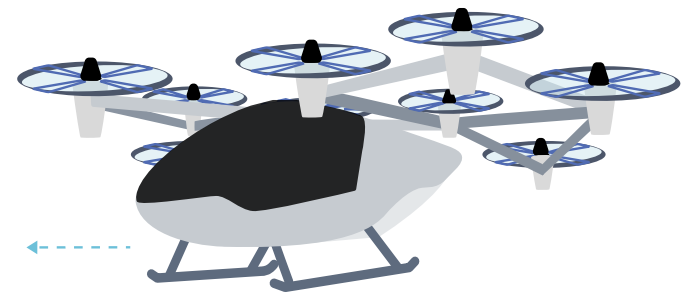
AAM aircraft are enabled by an electric or hybrid propulsion system which give the aircraft vertical lift during take-off and landing, whilst transitioning to horizontal flight for the journey.

Typically, these aircraft are powered by electricity, however; there is ongoing development in hybrid systems and hydrogen.

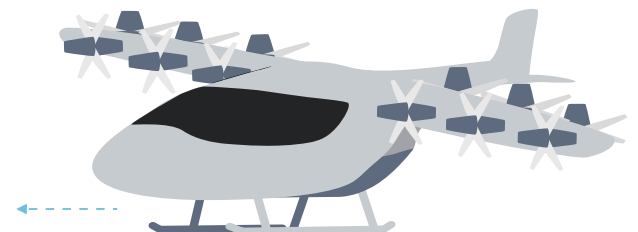
As the industry develops, it is expected that different configurations will arise, however; there are currently four main AAM designs emerging:

- **Multirotor:** multiple fixed rotors that provide lift and thrust
- **Lift + Cruise:** separate rotors for vertical lift, and fixed propellers for forward flight
- **Tilt-rotor / tilt-wing:** all rotors, or the wing itself, tilts to switch between lift and cruise flight
- **Vectored thrust:** fixed wings with rotors that vector thrust for both lift and cruise.

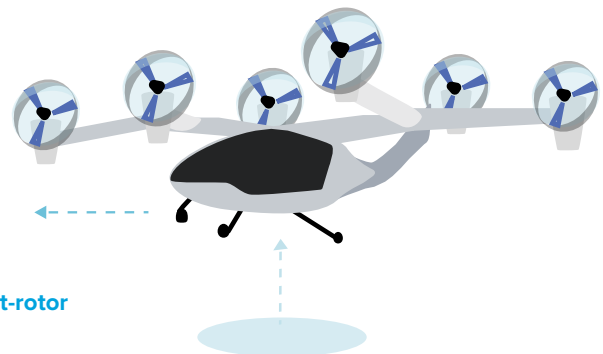
With AAM expected to operate from smaller footprints with different operational and infrastructure considerations than traditional aviation, it presents new opportunities to consider how it can be appropriately integrated into the future of our cities, regions and communities.



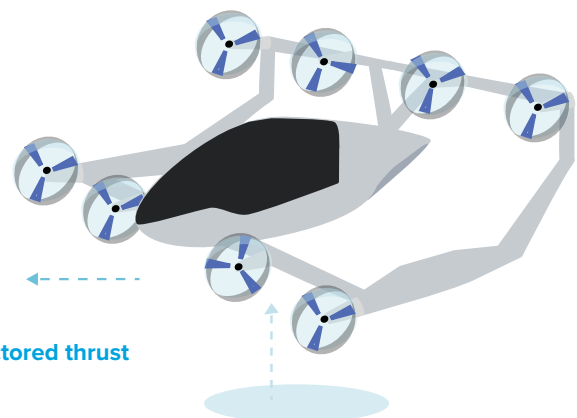
Multirotor



Lift + Cruise



Tilt-rotor



Vectored thrust

¹ Civil Aviation Safety Authority, 2024. RPAS and AAM Strategic Roadmap, v2.0

The opportunity for SEQ

Safe, sustainable, and inclusive integration of electric aviation to enhance liveability, support economic growth, and benefit local communities.

AAM has the potential to transform how we get around SEQ, making our entire region more accessible through a new form of air travel.

We want to collaborate with government and industry to ensure that local governments consider the needs of the sector, whilst meeting the expectations of our communities.

We want to create a connected SEQ, and AAM has the potential to support:

Healthcare

Mobility and connectivity

Regional development

Jobs and innovation

for every corner of SEQ: delivering professionals, patients and critical supplies, faster, and more efficiently, than ever before.



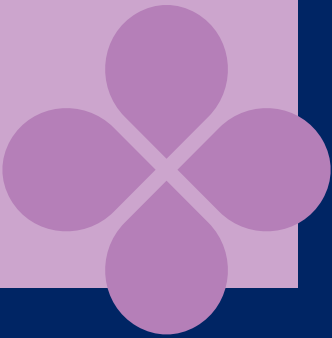
to empower people and businesses with new transport choices that are clean, safe, and conveniently integrated into everyday life.



through accelerated, equitable access to infrastructure, services, and opportunities, bridging the urban-rural divide.



by creating high-value skills and employment opportunities in engineering, manufacturing, operations, and digital technologies.



Enhancing everyday life by connecting communities, improving local services and creating jobs.



4,600

FTE jobs created in
SEQ by 2045²

Community and civic leadership

**Influence and align with
national and state regulatory
frameworks while advocating
for our local communities.**



\$66B

to the Australian
economy by 2040³

Economic prosperity

**Attract AAM-related
investment, innovation, and
job creation to the region.**



17M

passenger flights
projected by 2046⁴

Integrated transport and land-use planning

**AAM ground infrastructure
requirements are understood
by local government and
industry, and are compatible
with state and local government
planning frameworks and
land use strategies.**

² UAM Geomatics (A Nexa Capital Company) Report: Infrastructure to Support AAM in SE Queensland, December 2022, page 23

³ Advanced Air Mobility: Market study for APAC Manfred Hader, Global Head of Aerospace & Defense, Roland Berger

⁴ UAM Geomatics (A Nexa Capital Company) Report: Infrastructure to Support AAM in SE Queensland, December 2022, page 18

The opportunity for SEQ

Tourism

Scenic/Adventure tourism opportunities

- 1 Expanded access to islands for day trips and overnight stays
- 2 New transport connections from airports and aerodromes to end destinations
- 3 Ecotourism opportunities

Mobility and connectivity

Rural workforce retention and mobility

- 4 Island and rural connections
- 5 Regional to urban transport
- 6 Renewal of existing aviation infrastructure
- 7 Civic and government services in difficult-to-access areas



Jobs and innovation

Business connectivity

- 8 Enhancing access between business hubs, airports, aerodromes, ports and industrial zones.
- 9 Generating new jobs and business opportunities in regional centres
- 10 Supporting local training and workforce development
- 11 Agtech and logistics

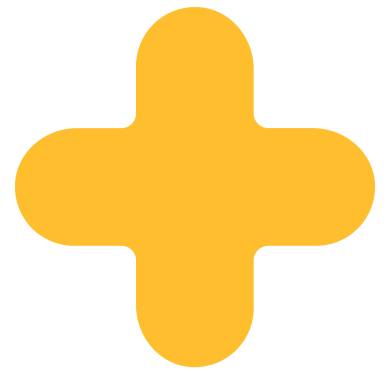
Healthcare

Patient movement

- 12 Inter-hospital transfers for non-critical patients or time-sensitive diagnostics.
- 13 Reducing need for long-distance road ambulance usage.
- 14 Delivery of pathology samples, blood products to/from regional/ metro hubs.
- 15 Act as a first-response transport solution, reaching affected areas quickly.

Healthcare

Re-imagining health service models



An opportunity to transform access to health care for communities across SEQ.

 **25 mins**

to connect remote areas and hospitals in our region.

- ✚ Improved access to health services
- ✚ Reduce long distance health transfers
- ✚ Attract and retain health care talent in regional areas

Imagine being able to get the healthcare you need—faster and closer to home. AAM could make that possible for many communities in South East Queensland, especially in places like Somerset, Lockyer Valley, and Southern Moreton Bay Island communities where travel options are limited and distances to hospitals are long. AAM could connect these remote areas to hospitals in our region in under 25 minutes.

With AAM, crews could land right next to local medical clinics, meaning patients wouldn't need to be moved between aeroplanes and ambulances. This could reduce stress and risk for patients, and help doctors and nurses provide better care. AAM technology also claims to be quieter and safer than helicopters, which could transform aeromedical transport into a far more accessible, safer and reliable option. On-going efforts to increase vehicle range are fundamental to developing some areas of opportunity.

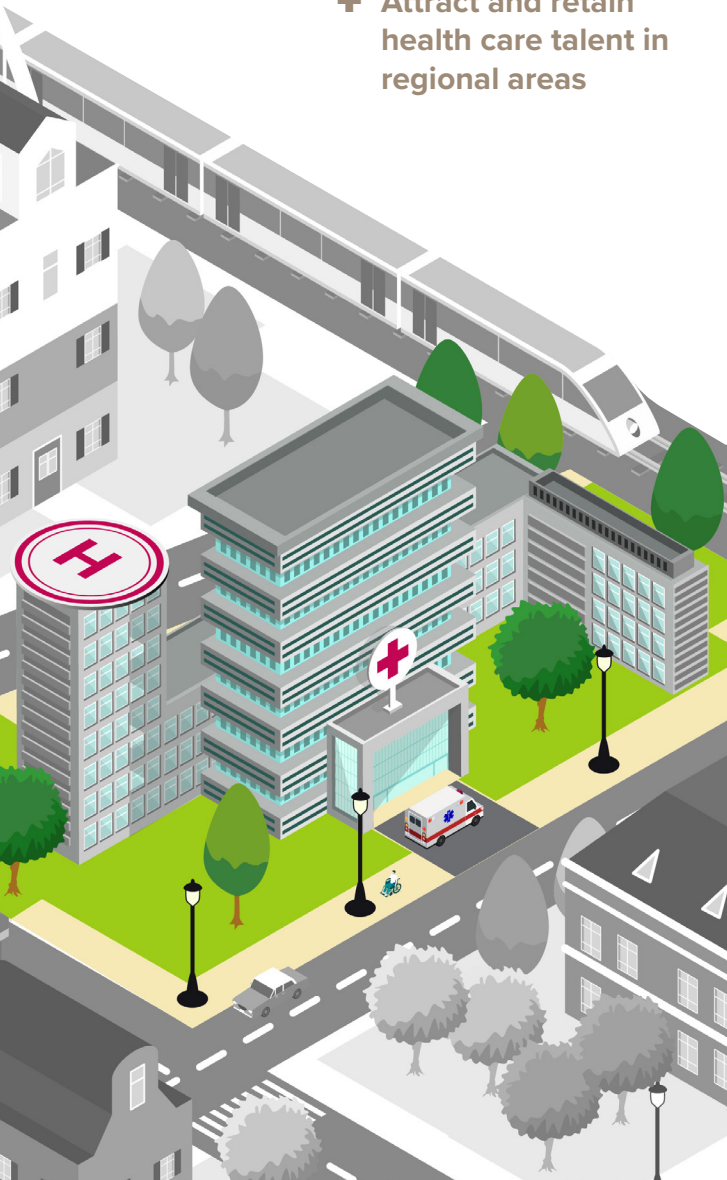
It also opens the door to new ways of delivering healthcare. Locum doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals could fly in quickly to support local clinics, and important medical samples, like blood tests, could be delivered faster using AAM (and drones).

For patients needing hospital care in Brisbane, AAM could make transfers quicker and easier, without taking local ambulance crews away from their communities for hours. That means more ambulances stay local, ready to respond when emergencies happen.

AMSL Aero in Australia

Australian eVTOL manufacturer AMSL Aero has partnered with a number of aeromedical operators, including CareFlight and AirMed, to develop an aeromedical cabin fit-out of their Vertiia aircraft to respond to medical emergencies and patient transfers across Australia.

Vertiia plans to fly from airfield bases and land directly next to remote medical clinics without needing to transfer patients between aeroplanes and road ambulances, reducing clinical risk and delivering better patient outcomes.



Key opportunities

Enhancing medical logistics	Fast delivery of pathology samples, blood products, vaccines, or pharmaceuticals to and from regional/metro hubs.
Rapid response services	Deployment of first responders and outreach services. Reducing need for long-distance road ambulance usage.
Supporting Patient transfer	Inter-hospital transfers for non-critical patients or time-sensitive diagnostics.
Disaster & emergency health support	In disaster scenarios or urgent medical evacuations, AAM can: • Act as a first-response transport solution, reaching affected areas quickly. • Provide aerial mobility where ground access is compromised.
Health worker mobility	Support fly-in fly-out (FIFO) clinician models or outreach programs to rural areas. Streamline the movement of specialist staff to areas experiencing shortages or emergencies. Attract and retain high-quality healthcare talent through more flexible access.
Mobile diagnostic hubs	Future AAM could facilitate rural health pop-ups including mobile scanning labs (e.g. x-ray, ultrasound).

Key considerations

Urban and regional planning	Local planning schemes and zoning laws will need to consider the suitability of vertiport locations for the purpose of emergency and medical transport. It is expected that design guidelines and standards will be required, particularly in and around existing health precincts.
Emergency services integration	Engagement is required with public and private healthcare systems, and local emergency services to explore how AAM can complement existing services to avoid service gaps or over-concentration in urban areas.
Data and technology	Explore opportunities to integrate with health data and logistics platforms.
Regulatory compliance	Aligning with CASA and state health transport regulations.
Community engagement	Significant work is required by industry to build public trust and understanding of AAM in healthcare.

Mobility and connectivity

Enhancing connections from the bush to the bay



AAM is an innovative technology that can create new connections that benefit our urban, rural and island communities.

Many rural and island communities in South East Queensland experience long commutes and limited transport options. AAM presents an opportunity to change this.

By offering fast, point-to-point travel, AAM has the potential to improve access to the mainland for island residents while expanding mobility across SEQ and regional Queensland. For growing rural communities such as Somerset and Lockyer Valley, shorter travel times, easier access to services and improved emergency services could be a reality.

AAM isn't just about getting from A to B; it's about unlocking access, opportunity, and quality of life for everyone, no matter where they live.

Wisk Aero

Wisk Aero is an AAM company dedicated to delivering safe, everyday flight to everyone.

With an autonomous, fully electric design, Wisk's Generation 6 eVTOL will unlock new opportunities that have the potential to transform mobility such as connecting travellers from our airports to their end destinations, and cutting down commuter travel times for rural residents.

Case study AAM in Norway

Norway's rugged geography and thousands of islands and mountains present significant transportation challenges. It relies heavily on short-haul aviation.

5.5M

population

98

airports

90%

of domestic flights under an hour

Companies in Norway are currently exploring the opportunity eVTOL seaplanes present to provide fast access to remote islands and coastal towns where traditional transport is limited or weather affected. This will also reduce road travel times dramatically, which are typically defined by difficult terrain.



Key opportunities

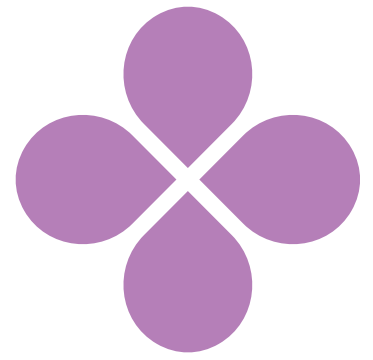
Island and rural connections	AAM can unlock an alternative mode of transport for residents, friends and family, business and healthcare workers, tourists, and essential goods.
Education access	Flying school runs to TAFE/university campuses to support students staying local while accessing educational opportunities.
Workforce & FIFO services	On-demand commuter links to regional employers or construction sites will boost rural employment retention and mobility.
Infrastructure renewal	SEQ is home to a significant number of existing airport precincts and aerodromes. There is an opportunity to renew some of these to become AAM hubs.
Logistics and freight	Parcel and food delivery to cut-off communities (e.g. during floods or ferry delays) to enhance resilience and social equity. Providing alternative routes in congested or isolated areas, such as our island communities. Ship to shore, postal services, time-sensitive delivery.
Civic and government services	Transport for community outreach teams, council officers, or mobile service hubs will improve service equity in hard-to-reach areas.

Key considerations

Urban and regional planning	Local planning schemes and zoning laws will need to consider the suitability of vertiports in strategic transport corridors that ensure equitable access to AAM services. Ensure alignment with urban growth and regional plans.
Transport integration	Ensure AAM complements existing public transport systems and services (bus, rail, ferry). Plan for multimodal hubs and first/last-mile access ensuring accessibility and safety at all sites. Local transport planning policies may need to be updated to accommodate AAM.
Data and technology	Plan for integration with smart city platforms, traffic management systems and mobility-as-a-service (MaaS) systems. Ensuring secure, real-time data sharing and coordination. On-going efforts to increase vehicle range (and payload) are fundamental to developing some areas of opportunity.
Regulatory compliance	Service delivery spans federal, state, local, and private infrastructure domains (e.g., marine authorities, aviation and transport agencies, landholders) and will require further consultation.
Resilience and redundancy	Consider AAM's role in economic continuity during disruptions (e.g. natural disasters, supply chain breakdowns). Ensure redundancy in transport access for key industries, congested and isolated areas.

Jobs and innovation

Supporting local jobs and opportunities



A platform for boosting productivity, attracting investment, sparking innovation, and inclusively connecting communities across SEQ.

By 2045, AAM is forecast to deliver

\$3.7B_{USD}

benefit to SEQ

4,600

new permanent jobs in SEQ

With major events like the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, and SEQ's strong aviation legacy, the region is well-positioned to lead the way in adopting these transformative technologies.

With SEQ's diverse economy and strong education sector, there's a real opportunity to grow adjacent industries and strengthen business resilience by opening new pathways to trade and connectivity. Collaboration between local universities, TAFE institutions, and the private sector will be essential to ensure the region's workforce is equipped with the skills needed to support electric aviation research and development.

SEQ's regional producers, from Toowoomba to the Sunshine Coast, stand to gain significantly from improved freight efficiency and connectivity. Electric aviation can support the export of time-sensitive, high-value agricultural goods like meat, dairy, and fresh produce. This technology offers a more affordable and effective freight solution for businesses in remote and regional communities, helping them meet growing global demand for Australian commodities. With Brisbane and Wellcamp Airports, as well as the Port of Brisbane already playing key roles in freight logistics, SEQ is well-positioned to become a leader in sustainable export growth.

Importantly, AAM also brings environmental benefits. Electric aircraft produce zero direct emissions, and when powered by renewable energy, they offer a clean, alternative to other transport modes. AAM can also support land management, environmental monitoring, and conservation efforts. From tracking bushfire risks and monitoring water quality, to surveying wildlife and vegetation, these technologies offer low-emission and cost-effective tools to protect our natural assets.

By investing in infrastructure, skills and workforce development now, we can ensure we capture the full economic and social benefits of this transformative technology tomorrow.



Key opportunities

Business connectivity	Key innovation precincts can be linked more effectively to partners, suppliers, and global gateways via AAM. Enhancing access between business hubs, airports, ports and industrial zones.
Regional Business Hubs	New centres of activity around vertiports generating new jobs and business opportunities in regional centres.
Innovation ecosystem	Support innovation zones and clean tech precincts. Stimulating employment in aviation, technology, infrastructure, and services. Supporting local training and workforce development. Attracting startups and investment in mobility technologies. Encouraging partnerships between government, academia, and industry.
Agriculture	Precision agriculture services including crop health imaging, livestock monitoring, aerial seeding and pest control.
Logistics and freight	Improving logistics for agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare sectors. Enabling faster access to markets and supply chains.
Infrastructure investment	Attracting new investment that stimulates local economic activity and job creation.
Digital economy integration	Enable smart logistics and real-time transport coordination. Supporting e-commerce and on-demand services.

Key considerations

Urban and regional planning	Local planning schemes and zoning laws will need to consider the suitability of vertiport locations to ensure zoning supports AAM operations in major enterprise and industrial areas. Ensure compatibility with surrounding land uses and future growth corridors.
Transport integration	Coordinate AAM infrastructure with existing transport, utilities, and digital networks.
Infrastructure readiness	Plan for scalable infrastructure that supports future demand and commercial operations.
Environmental and amenity management	Balance economic benefits with noise, visual, and environmental impacts. Consider circular economy opportunities.
Workforce development	Collaboration with education providers will be required to address gaps in skilled labour and target reskilling programs to meet growing demand.

Regional development

Unlocking tourism



AAM is set to transform how visitors experience South East Queensland, making travel faster, cleaner, and more connected.

Visitors will be able to reach iconic destinations including Moreton Island, the Scenic Rim, and the Sunshine Coast in minutes, bypassing traffic and unlocking access to places that are currently hard to reach.

Eve Air Mobility

Eve is developing a piloted, four-passenger eVTOL as well as the supporting infrastructure required to enable the sector, such as traffic management solutions and ground support services.

Backed by Embraer, their international tourism and mobility projects show how AAM could support SEQ by providing aircraft, technical systems, and partnerships to enhance the visitor experience and support our region's growing tourism economy.

Whether it's a quick flight from Brisbane CBD to Stradbroke Island or a scenic journey over the hinterland, AAM will make exploring SEQ truly unique, aligning with Queensland's tourism ambitions to improve connectivity while showcasing natural and cultural assets.

For local communities, AAM offers a path to grow tourism in a sustainable and inclusive way. These aircraft produce zero direct emissions and are significantly quieter than helicopters, helping protect the natural beauty and tranquillity of our region.

AAM can support ecotourism, cultural experiences, and regional events by connecting visitors to remote areas without the need for large-scale infrastructure. This opens new opportunities for small businesses, tour operators, and local attractions to welcome more guests and share what makes SEQ special.

As we prepare for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, AAM offers a unique opportunity to showcase SEQ to the world. With improved access to tourism products and seamless connections between venues, accommodation, and airports, visitors will be able to explore more of our city-region during their stay. By embracing AAM, we can help create a vibrant, connected, and sustainable tourism future that benefits all Queenslanders.



Key opportunities

Tourism Mobility	Short-range flights between eco-resorts, farm stays and island destinations will enable the expansion of regional tourism and visitor dispersal.
Luxury, Eco and Cultural tourism	Supports low-impact, immersive tourism in hard-to-access areas, and improves event accessibility by replacing helicopter or long-drive options with quieter, lower-emissions electric flights.
Island access and transfers	Cuts ferry/road time; opens up day trips and premium stays.
Adventure tourism	Creates new tourism products (Scenic flights, waterfall tours, farm gate and aerial trails) that blend transport and experience.
Cruise tourism	Enhances visitor time on land; expands spending footprint inland.

Key considerations

Urban and regional planning	Local planning schemes and zoning laws will need to consider the suitability of vertiport locations near key tourist gateways, natural attractions, and accommodation zones without degrading amenity or heritage. Consider flexible zoning or air mobility overlay codes for: • Island townships • National park peripheries • Wineries, resorts, and hinterland hubs
Transport integration	Coordinate AAM infrastructure with existing transport, utilities, and digital networks.
Infrastructure readiness	Plan for scalable infrastructure that supports future demand and commercial operations.
Regulatory compliance	Coordination with CASA and tourism operators is essential to ensure visitor safety, airspace management, and insurance frameworks are in place.

A future with AAM

By understanding the benefits of AAM, we can prepare for a future where safe, low-emission flight could enhance everyday life for South East Queenslanders.

This includes boosting tourism, improving connectivity for communities, enhancing accessibility to local health services and strengthening resilience in times of need.

Realising this future will require a strong understanding on where this technology can add the most value to SEQ, learning from other regions who are exploring AAM, and how it should be considered in future planning as our region grows.

To successfully achieve this, strong and ongoing engagement is needed between regulators, government, AAM operators, infrastructure providers and communities.

This will ensure SEQ maximises the opportunities this emerging industry presents for local jobs, investment and community benefits that enhance the liveability of SEQ into the future.

AAM has the potential to become another proud chapter in SEQ's aviation story. One that keeps our region connected, competitive, and ready for the future.





ARUP

arup.com



Council of Mayors
South East Queensland

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