

Victoria McGrane
Director, The Scenic Route
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Re Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments

Dear Sir/madam.

I run a small web based greetings card and artwork business from my home in Burketown, Queensland. The quality of the internet provision in Burketown meant that it was possible for me to relocate to Burketown with my partner and continue to operate my business from this remote rural location. However, the operating costs of running the business are far more substantial than they would be in any other 'remote' location on the east coast of the State.

For example, travel costs from Cairns to attend trade shows, events or client meetings in Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane would cost between \$100 to \$200 in return flight fares but from Burketown the return flights to Cairns alone is approximately \$1,800, and due to the infrequency of the flights this will invariably require an overnight stopover to catch connecting flights.

Another example of additional costs to run a business from Burketown would be postage costs. My business requires me to send product direct to customers or to sales representatives. A standard parcel sent by a standard courier service that operates out of an urban centre such as Cairns would cost \$6.95. The cost to ship the same parcel by Australia Post from Burketown, as there are no courier services, would be \$17.95. This impact on your profit margin adds up if you are sending 500 to 1,000 parcels per annum.

I would encourage you to reflect on the Remote Area Tax Concession allocation for people living in genuinely remote parts of the country.

Kind regards, Victoria.