

Living remotely , we experience hardships not experienced by those in eastern states and urban centres. Our climate is harsh and has extremes. The cost of food and services are higher, freight added to everything. The building code has higher standards, higher cost of buildings which is passed onto buyers, owners and renters. Incentives are needed to offset the difficulties experienced. It costs so much to fly out of Darwin. Trying to keep connected with family interstate, and support ageing parents from afar is near impossible with the high costs of flights. Products do not last as long in the tropics. Shoes disintegrate after one season, sometimes you may be lucky to get two seasons wearing. There is a high cost of electricity. Recent building developments have forced greater reliance on air cons as they restrict airflow with concrete structures. With a declining population more needs to be done to support and entice people to stay remote. An increase in allowance is needed, not removal. A huge difference between city and country. Darwin residents pay higher insurance on housing and content due to the city being bombed in World War II. Darwin should not be grouped in with Cairns, it has quite different conditions and challenges.