

# **Submission for the Productivity Commission Issues Paper: Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments.**

**1. Please provide a brief background on your business:**

I work and reside in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I manage a mining consultancy office located which is part of a global company.

I have wife and three children (3,7 and 11). My wife owns her own business and also works in local government.

**2. Please provide feedback on how the cost and quality of food, groceries and clothing affects your weekly spending:**

The cost of living is generally high but not unreasonable.

**3. Please explain how the cost of transport (airfares, fuel, freight etc.) costs impacts you:**

With a family of 5 we cannot afford to fly very often. We have to drive. Even 2 flights a year accounts for 25% or more of our disposable income.

**4. How do you feel about access to primary health care?**

We have to go to Perth for specialists especially with the kids. Its hugely expensive (even if we drive) and the appointments are rarely scheduled to be accommodating. While there a programs to make submissions to re-couple some money it is typically a fraction of the actual cost.

**5. Please explain if/how education offered within the Goldfields addresses your needs:**

Education is ok but the results of National Testing show the region is significantly below the national average.

**6. Please provide feedback on how the cost of utilities (water, electricity, gas) affects your household and business:**

Lack of competition increases the cost. But still generally ok.

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7. Please explain if you believe that the cost of living warrants an increase to the zone rebate:

The rebate is a joke. Its barely worth ticking the box. Given the cost of living here is in the thousands, the rebate is a token amount.

8. Any further comments:

My biggest issue is there is no incentive to live locally rather than do fly in fly out. Financially I would be a lot better off doing FIFO but I choose to put family and regional living first. FBT needs to be extended to FIFO so that the true cost of FIFO can be understood. These additional funds can then be used to boost regional areas. Only in cases where mining camps are >100km from a regional centre should companies / individuals be exempt from SOME FBT.