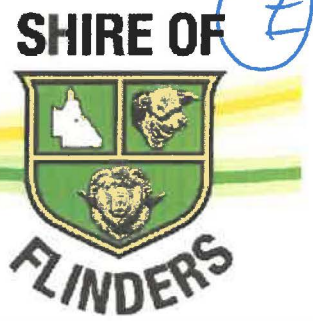


Rec
16.5.19



JM: JC
TRIM: R19/1782

07 May 2019

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Senator Ian Macdonald
PO Box 2185
Townsville QLD 4810

Dear Senator Macdonald

I write to you in response to your correspondence regarding the productivity Commission Review of the Zone Tax Rebate/Offset.

In terms of our Councils response we make the following suggestions:

1. The tax offset be increased to \$5,000.00 and CPI adjusted annually, this will assist in attracting talent, investors and residents to regional area) importantly it will go some way to alleviating the real costs associated with travel for health care , and the higher cost of basic necessities such as food, fuel and other services.
2. The offset be based on population size and access to critical services in terms of distance from a major regional or capital city (city's that can provide a full service).
3. In-situ with the above we respectfully suggest that consideration be given to setting up special economic zones in terms of remote regional areas. There is ample precedent that shows this approach can work and be beneficial to regional and remote communities.

Senator thank you for the opportunity to comment in terms of the above. I and my fellow councillors would be happy to volunteer to participate in a proof of concept in terms of the suggested special economic zone.

Kind regards

Jane McNamara
Mayor