



Chamber of Commerce

Driving Sustainable Economic, Social & Cultural Growth on King Island

Productivity Commission

Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments March 2019 submission

King Island has a population of 1600 people with 900 in employment.

King Island's contribution to Tasmanian and Australian economy is valued at \$150 million including but not exclusive to:

- Beef
- Fishing
- Dairy
- Kelp
- Seafood.

As the King Island Chamber of Commerce our businesses support and are ancillary to these primary producers.

As taxpayers and employers of tax payers living on a remote island and running a small business our businesses have added costs with:

- Freight
- Power (estimated supply charge ex gst 0.8277, estimated usage rate 0.52579, no off peak options)
- Fuel (Unleaded Petrol - \$2.00, Premium Petrol - \$ 2.20, Diesel - \$2.05)
- Telecommunications
- Professional Development (accessing professional development generally involves more time away from our businesses).

As residents air flights are the only way on and off island. Often the cost of these become prohibitive for families and they select to leave the island. This then impacts on our access to skilled staff.

Freights is on every item imported and exported which impacts on the costs of groceries and fresh products, construction, fuel, and power.

As a small population we lack a lot of things most Australians take for granted.

The type of shops we lack include basics like clothing, footwear, and linen.

Our choice of telecommunications supplies is limited to Telstra.

No NBN with satellite the only option at a cost, restricting access to cost effective communication.

There is limited or no access to basic dental and diagnostic services for example. x-rays.

We feel that the zone rebate goes a small way to helping us as we have extra costs to access all the above. The extra costs also impact on our ability to recruit and retain staff needed to run our business productively.

18/04/2019