

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments – Productivity Commission Issues Paper

I am a young woman currently living in Burketown, a remote community located in North West Queensland, with our nearest Major Centre being Mount Isa is 600km (6-7hours drive) away.

As Burketown is so remote, we have minimal services in town. These services are:

- Primary school - Prep to Year 6, anything year 7 and above have to do School of the Air or go off to boarding school
- Kindergarten
- Clinic – nurse operated only, Doctors only visit once a week
- Take away store
- Store/ service station – basic mechanical work – for special services that require it to be done by a dealership, this has be done either in Mount Isa, Cairns or Townsville
- Convenience store/post office – basic grocery items
- Nursery – plants and basic food supplies. They also to weekly freight runs to Cairns or Mount Isa
- Caravan Park
- Accommodation provider

For specialist health appointments we have to travel to Mount Isa or Townsville as there aren't services other than a weekly doctor provided here. To go to these specialist appointments, minimum fees are subsidised and most expenses incurred (travel, accommodation, meals) are to be covered by the individual themselves.

There are no public transport providers in/out of Burketown other than Regional Express Airlines. Even though there is a service provided by Regional Express, there are very limited options for days to fly in and out. The cost of a return trip from Burketown to Cairns is approximately \$927.00 per person.

The costs associated to professional development/training are also quite expensive as we need to rely on services/professionals from out of Burketown to conduct these courses.

The costs associated with living in Burketown are quite expensive due to the remoteness and limited services provided here. Below is an example of my monthly budget:

| Description | Monthly Cost | Comments |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| Rent | \$ 816.00 | Accommodation provided through employer |
| Food | \$ 300.00 | Comparison of essential items: (buying from Woolworths vs. buying locally) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2L Milk - \$3.00 vs. \$5.80• Bread – as little as \$1.25 vs. \$5.50 |
| Electricity | \$ 200.00 | I put money on my electricity account every fortnight but this still doesn't cover the full bill for the quarter. |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Vehicle Fuel | \$ 200.00 | Approximate cost per month. Super petrol – \$1.47 vs. \$ 1.76 (Brisbane price) |
| Other bills | \$ 1800.00 | These other bills include – vehicle insurance, internet expenses, vehicle repayments, entertainment (Austar) and pet food. |
| Total Monthly income <i>(approximate)</i> | \$ 4000.00 | |
| Money leftover | \$ 684.00 | |

The prices above don't include one off expenses for items like vehicle registration, vehicle services, etc. The costs associated with living in Burketown are quite expensive due to the remoteness and limited services provided here. Below is an example of my monthly budget:

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|---|-------------------|--|
| Rent | \$ 816.00 | Accommodation provided through employer |
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| Vehicle Fuel | \$ 200.00 | Approximate cost per month. Super petrol – \$1.47 vs. \$ 1.76 (Brisbane price) |
| Other bills | \$ 1800.00 | These other bills include – vehicle insurance, internet expenses, vehicle repayments, entertainment (Austar) and pet food. |
| Total Monthly income <i>(before tax – approximate.)</i> | \$ 5000.00 | |
| Money leftover | \$ 1684.00 | |

The prices above don't include one off expenses for items like vehicle registration, vehicle services, etc.

In regards to the Productivity Commission Issues Paper on Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments, I believe a review needs to be undertaken to ensure equity for those like myself living in very remote areas of Australia.