

Mr. Jonathan Coppel  
Presiding Commissioner  
Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments Study  
Productivity Commission

Lodged online: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Commissioner Coppel,

**REMOTE AREA TAX CONCESSIONS AND PAYMENTS – DRAFT REPORT**

I do not support the Commission's proposal to abolish the Zone Tax Offset due to it being ineffective and poorly targeted. By way of background, I am a Registered Tax Agent having established a practice in the North Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia which has been in operation since 1999. When I started my business the mining workforce was employed on a drive-in drive out basis and we had a bustling community with many sporting organisations. Since the advent of a fly in fly out mining workforce, our town has suffered over the years as we simply do not have the volunteers living locally to organize and run the sporting events. Even our emergency services are struggling to keep the doors open for lack of volunteers – we need any sort of incentive to keep our community, which includes many Traditional owners and families, alive.

The reasons for a Zone Tax Offset are well documented and still current, however the zone classification is outdated. The majority of the Australian population lives on or near our coastline and I am suggesting our first zone starts 200 kilometre's by the nearest trafficable land or sea route from the coastline. The second zone starts 400 kilometre's by the nearest trafficable land or sea route from the coastline. If it takes 4 hours or more of driving to get to the nearest beach, you would have to be considered to be living in a remote area. The amount of the offset should, at least, cover the freight cost of the basic essentials of life and be indexed annually.

I thank the Commission for considering my response and look forward to the final report toward the end of 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Norrie