

## SUBMISSION REGARDING REMOTE AREA TAX CONCESSIONS

I support maintaining (or increasing) the remote zone tax rebate in Cooktown and other remote areas. I live in Cooktown and know first-hand how important this tax relief is. I believe that the health and wellbeing of residents would suffer if it was reduced or withdrawn.

- Basic services such as a dentist are lacking in Cooktown. The closest dentist is at Mareeba, about 265 km away. It costs about \$500 extra per visit (in addition to the dentist's fees) in fuel and time to see a dentist. Two visits a year for standard dental care therefore cost about \$1,000 more than for people who can access their dentist locally.
- The cost of fuel is higher in remote areas such as Cooktown. There is no public transport.
- Goods must be freighted to Cooktown and are therefore often more expensive.
- The average income in remote areas including Cooktown is lower than the average for Australians generally.