

Good morning,

Having read the overview of the Productivity Commissions draft report into the Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments I would like to make the following comments. I make these comments from the perspective of someone who lives and works in a regional town.

- The price of gold and other resources is very positive, however this does not seem to be having a flow on effect for our regional town. There is evidence that there are less people living in town and there is clear evidence of many vacant shops.
- I can't see how removing or reducing concessions can possibly be a positive thing for our community. The money the federal government saves will no doubt be spent somewhere else, at least at the moment it has some chance of being spent in our community.
- For regional communities to be vibrant they need people to live in their towns. I understand that the amounts may seem small in the big picture but removal of these concessions will be one more added stress to a struggling regional community working to attract people to its town.
- I can't relay my dismay strongly enough that to remove or reduce the fringe benefit tax for businesses in our town who use this to attract employees by providing support for accommodation is being considered. FIFO and it's concessions have had no changes recommended. FIFO does not support regional towns. The money FIFO earns is not spent in our towns. It seems that the Productivity Commission feels that the people and businesses in our towns will cope with this removal of concessions but does not want to interfere with the concessions for larger companies. Just comes across as looking after the big end of town.
- With reference to temporary accommodation a smaller town near us has a very large camp on the fringe of town for mine workers. It has all food supplied, gym, indoor cricket court, tavern etc. This provides little benefit for the town where many businesses have closed. Camp has been there for 9 years so far.

Our region produces a lot of resources and revenue in turn cash for our state and federal governments. There seems little point in families and businesses living in communities if the industries and states they support are able to access resources but communities see the money and benefits flow away from our towns. I do not see how reducing tax concessions for residents and businesses can possible be a good thing or helpful in anyway.

Kind regards,

Graham Green