

## Admin, LACO

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**Subject:** FW: High country air fares

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Friday, 1 September 2017 5:52 PM

To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing <[laeisc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:laeisc@parliament.wa.gov.au)>

Subject: High country air fares

Good afternoon,

I realise that most of the focus on the high air fares are on the major WA country regions, however these are not the only areas affected.

Myself partner and many friends live in Meekatharra, the service supplied by Skippers is very sub standard.

And extremely expensive a return air fair is in the approx \$800.00.

The planes are uncomfortable often air conditioning in summer months not effective. The airport at Wiluna is very basic no facilities to purchase cold drinks in hot weather.

The service is only offered three days a week which can be a huge extra expense when you have to add on extra accommodation.

The luggage restriction is also a disgrace a limit of 15 kgs including carry on.

Many locals require flights through PATS, which in turn impacts on the costs to the tax payers.

Skippers have had the monopoly of this service and seem to secure the tender for this every time its is up for renewal.

There is no service that could be implemented to service the Geraldton region as well, but not offered by any carrier.

Often patients are referred to Geraldton for services, but either have to drive or catch uncomfortable buses, which if you are unwell not very pleasant.

This service would be beneficial on a tourist perspective as well.

It would be great to have a much more superior and efficient cheaper service to this region.

I hope that this is also something that your inquiry will investigate.

The country cousins are most certainly disadvantaged yet our give encourages people to take up jobs in these small rural and remote locations.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to a positive response.

Kind regards

Anne McCall