

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Regional airfares

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From: Jacinta Middleton

Sent: Friday, 28 July 2017 3:03 PM

To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing

Subject: Regional airfares

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the outrageous flight prices that we are forced to pay as residents of the Kimberley.

I have lived in the Kimberley for the past 12 years as a resident of Broome (5years) and currently Kununurra (past 7 years). There are too many times to mention that my family and I have had to miss out on family funerals, weddings, Christmases and significant events due to not being able to afford the flights.

We are isolated enough with both Broome and Darwin being a full day drive away. But to feel trapped due to lack of transport options compounds the isolation that we as Kimberley residents feel.

Often Kununurra residents are forced to drive a full day to Darwin as they can't afford the 2 leg journey to eastern states or down south. With Young children in the car it's not only unsafe and inconvenient when you have late flights or early landings but also adds 2 extra days to your travel time and often the cost of accommodation while waiting for flights.

To see how many return international trips that are 3-4times cheaper than our 1-2 leg domestic journeys just adds salt to the wounds.

Recently I have had some personal health issues and was first flown to Darwin for a few weeks, my partner and 2 young children were unable to join me as the return flights were not affordable with my loss of income. I have now been flown to Broome and he has driven to Broome with the children to drop them off so he can return to work. We could not afford flights for everyone both ways (\$600-\$2500 each ticket) but I will still have to pay for the boys to fly back with me when I can return to Kununurra (prices currently ranging from approx \$300-\$1200 per ticket depending on the day) for these prices you can fly return to Los Angeles, Singapore, New York etc.

This is what we have to pay for a flight that is approx 1hour long.

Two weeks ago it was cheaper to fly Darwin to Perth than it was to fly Kununurra to Perth on exactly the same plane/flight with the Darwin flight stopping in Kununurra to pick up those passengers, so \$200 more expensive for 1 hour less flying and one less stopover. How can this be justified?

I really look forward to hearing the outcomes of your investigation into the ridiculous airfares we have to pay as residents of the Kimberley.

Kind regards

Jacinta Middleton

Sent from my iPhone