

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Cost of airfares in the Pilbara

From: Laura Camilleri
Sent: Friday, 28 July 2017 4:20 PM
To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing
Subject: Cost of airfares in the Pilbara

To Whom It May Concern

I write to you to express my frustration and disappointment at the cost of airfares in the Pilbara region, specifically from / to Paraburdoo.

As a resident of Tom Price I find it quite insulting that we are charged so much for what is less than a 2 hour flight. Not everyone who lives here is on the big Rio Tinto wages or is entitled to rate for flights.

Living and working in this community is great but at times it can be very isolating. Sometimes one just needs to get away for a few days but with the options being a long drive or an astronomical amount of dollars for a flight to Perth it is often just not doable. This can lead to struggles mentally and emotionally which can then have a flow on affect within the family and workplace environments.

Yes its true it is our choice to live here and there are those who say "if you dont like the way it is leave" but is that really a solution?? What if everyone leaves?? What will happen then??

I also think that if the airfare was more affordable then more people would actually fly so the airlines would not actually lose out, they may even make more money. More tourists from other parts of Australia and indeed around the world may also visit so this would be a boost for tourism and local business.

I know next to nothing about the ins and outs of the way airlines and airports work or the government regulations surrounding all this so I am not going to get into any of those points.

I am just a regular Aussie who together with my husband is trying to make a go of it in life and I think that if the cost of an airfare was more affordable it would have a positive effect for those of us who live and work in Pilbara communities.

Regards Laura Camilleri