

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: SUBMISSION - Parliamentary Committee - Inquiry into regional airfares in Western Australia

From: Tricia Hebbard

Sent: Thursday, 27 July 2017 11:58 PM

To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing

Subject: SUBMISSION - Parliamentary Committee - Inquiry into regional airfares in Western Australia

Parliamentary Committee - Inquiry into regional airfares in Western Australia

As a resident of South Hedland for 35+, myself and my family ask that this inquiry looks at reducing the high costs of the airfares for locals to fly from Pilbara towns to Perth, in particular Port Hedland.

I am a small business owner and do not receive employment benefits or free flights for myself and my family to travel to our local capital city.

The costs on average are \$500 one way and if you times that by 4 people in an average family it is \$4000 just to fly to Perth to see family or access services unavailable locally.

Also if we were flying onwards to another location for vacation or to see family other than in Perth the costs are astronomical.

I ask you how would you feel if you had to pay this much (\$4000 plus) just to go on annual leave. We work long and hard in the Australian summer and deserve an affordable transport service to go on breaks.

From a small business point of view how can I offer my employees this incentive if I can't afford it myself? and how can I conduct any business in Perth if the flights are so costly? It is crippling small business growth.

Even if I try to source a cheaper airfare other than \$500 one way the costs fluctuate too much from person to person, some days it will be \$450 or \$350 for a different and then return can still be \$500+.

A set price that is reasonable around \$200 or \$250 would assist with improving visitors to the region, further improve small business practice and reconnect families.

As a voter I know this is unfair disadvantage being forced on Pilbara residents when a Perth resident can fly to eastern states or overseas for less. It's almost daylight robbery.

Things need to change and people need to be put before profits.

I will be following with keen interest this governments decisions and the findings of this inquiry.

Regards

Andrew Wood