

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Flights to Kununurra and Perth

From: Janelle Atwell
Sent: Friday, 28 July 2017 2:12 PM
To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing
Subject: Flights to Kununurra and Perth

I have been a resident of Kununurra since 2009, my husband since 1985.

Our families all reside in Perth and its surrounds.

I moved here for a sea change and fell in love instantly. Unfortunately though you **MUST** love this place as with the remote lifestyle comes extreme cost of everyday living.

The price of flights to get home is absolutely ridiculous. The airlines seem to be able to put any value on a seat and don't seem concerned if flights are full or not.

The flight issue is discussed regularly in our community and **EVERYONE** you speak to says they would travel more often if it was affordable, seems clear as mud doesn't it - drop the price and fill the seats!

The exorbitant costs of flights means that we miss out on attending family birthdays, weddings and other events. It can be very tough living away from family during difficult times and also during times of celebration when you can't afford to be there.... makes you wonder why you live so far away.

Now that we have as small family travelling to Perth will no longer be a choice. We will **HAVE** to relocate in the next 12 months or face never seeing our family. This is extremely sad for us however is happening every day for many other community members.

Kununurra has great potential in Agriculture and Tourism to name only a few. Not only is it difficult for residents to get out, but it is equally as difficult for visitors/tourists to come in by air - many just don't bother as the price is too high. This does not support our economy or the region.

We have traveled overseas on a few occasions and can get flights to Europe for the same return price to Perth at times. How ridiculous, I say again.

WA always seems to be 20 years behind the rest of the country, let's make the changes needed to make living in remote and rural areas attractive, sustainable and affordable.

Yours sincerely

Janelle Atwell