



Submission to the Productivity Commission
Inquiry: Determinants of Regional Airfares

Submitted by:
Nick Hall
Director - ANH and Co Investments Pty Ltd
Perth, Western Australia

1. Introduction

My name is Nick Hall. I was born and raised in Karratha and lived there for 26 years before relocating to Perth. Although I now live in Perth, I remain closely connected to the Pilbara both personally and professionally. I operate businesses that require regular travel between Perth and regional towns including Karratha and Tom Price. Having spent most of my life in the Pilbara, I have firsthand experience of the challenges associated with living in regional Western Australia, including the high cost of travel, housing and living expenses. I ultimately left Karratha partly due to the increasing cost of living, including housing, rent and the high cost of air travel required to maintain connections with family overseas in New Zealand. Despite relocating to Perth, my work continues to require regular travel to the Pilbara. As a result, I continue to experience the impact of regional airfare pricing on both business operations and family life.

2. Regional Equity Statement

Regional Australians should not be disadvantaged simply because of where they live. Communities such as those in the Pilbara contribute enormous wealth to the national economy through industries such as iron ore and gas production. Yet the cost of accessing basic transport infrastructure is often substantially higher than in metropolitan areas. Workers and residents connected to regional Western Australia frequently pay more to travel between Perth and the Pilbara than many Australians pay to fly between major cities or even internationally. These costs create barriers to travel, economic participation and social connection.

3. Importance of Aviation in Regional Australia

Regional aviation plays a critical role in connecting communities, supporting economic activity and enabling access to services. For many regional communities aviation provides the only practical connection to major cities. The distance between Perth and Karratha is approximately 1500 kilometres by road, requiring around 16 to 18 hours of driving.

4. Evidence of High Airfares on Pilbara Routes

Return airfares between Perth and Pilbara destinations regularly exceed 700 to 900 dollars when booked several weeks in advance and can exceed 1200 dollars or more when booked closer to departure. Additional airfare examples from the Perth to Paraburdoo route show return fares around 1794 dollars and 2233 dollars depending on fare availability and booking timing. Even flights booked further in advance can still cost around 1010 dollars return. These examples demonstrate the consistently high cost of regional aviation compared with metropolitan routes.

5. Impact on Regional Businesses

High airfare costs significantly affect regional businesses. Many industries rely on specialist staff travelling from Perth including contractors, consultants, technicians and event personnel. For example a small regional event requiring several staff travelling from Perth can quickly incur several thousand dollars in airfare costs alone before accommodation or wages are considered.

6. Impact on Tourism and Events

High airfare costs limit tourism growth and cultural events in regional communities. The Pilbara has significant tourism potential including Karijini National Park, the Dampier Archipelago and Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences. However when flights to the Pilbara cost more than flights across Australia many travellers choose alternative destinations.

7. Impact on Family Travel and Road Safety

When flights become unaffordable many travellers choose to drive instead. As someone whose work requires travel between Perth, Karratha and Tom Price I frequently choose to drive long distances rather than fly due to airfare costs. Driving these distances involves journeys exceeding 1500 kilometres across remote highways where fatigue, wildlife collisions and mechanical issues present real risks. On some occasions I have had to take my daughters out of school for a day or two so they can travel with me because the cost of flying multiple family members for a short trip is not economically viable.

8. The Pilbara Wealth Paradox

The Pilbara is one of the most economically productive regions in Australia yet residents and businesses connected to the region face some of the highest domestic airfares simply to access their own capital city.

9. Conclusion

Regional aviation is essential infrastructure for communities connected to the Pilbara. Improving affordability and accessibility of regional aviation will strengthen regional economies and improve quality of life for regional Australians. Submitted by

Nick Hall
Director - ANH and Co Investments Pty Ltd
Perth, Western Australia

9:07



Your trip

Perth to Paraburdoo

Sunday, 15 March 2026

 [QF1624](#)

Flight QF1624 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
15:30	17:20	0 stops	Flex
			\$1,046

[Change this flight](#)

Paraburdoo to Perth

Sunday, 22 March 2026

 [QF1625](#)

Flight QF1625 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
18:05	19:55	0 stops	Red e-Deal
			\$748

[Change this flight](#)

Flight subtotal

1 Adult

About our prices 

\$1,794 AUD



\$1,794 AUD

CONTINUE 

book.qantas.com

9:09



Your trip

Paraburdoo to Perth

Sunday, 15 March 2026

 [QF1625](#)

Flight QF1625 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
18:05	19:55	0 stops	Flex
			\$1,046

[Change this flight](#)

Perth to Paraburdoo

Sunday, 22 March 2026

 [QF1624](#)

Flight QF1624 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
15:30	17:20	0 stops	Flex
			\$1,188

[Change this flight](#)

Flight subtotal

1 Adult

About our prices 

\$2,233 AUD



\$2,233 AUD

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9:11



Your trip

Perth to Paraburdoo

Sunday, 26 April 2026

 [QF1624](#)

Flight QF1624 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
15:30	17:20	0 stops	Red e-Deal
			\$505

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Paraburdoo to Perth

Sunday, 3 May 2026

 [QF1625](#)

Flight QF1625 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
18:05	19:55	0 stops	Red e-Deal
			\$505

[Change this flight](#)

Flight subtotal

1 Adult

About our prices 

\$1,010 AUD



\$1,010 AUD

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9:10

Your trip



Paraburdoo to Perth

Sunday, 26 April 2026

 [QF1625](#)

Flight QF1625 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
18:05	19:55	0 stops	Red e-Deal
			\$505

[Change this flight](#)

Perth to Paraburdoo

Sunday, 3 May 2026

 [QF1624](#)

Flight QF1624 is operated by Qantaslink - Network Aviation

Departs	Arrives	1h 50m	ECONOMY
15:30	17:20	0 stops	Red e-Deal
			\$505

[Change this flight](#)

Flight subtotal

1 Adult

\$1,010 AUD

About our prices 



\$1,010 AUD

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