



DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
TREASURER

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
minister.manison@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5547
Facsimile: 08 8936 5609

Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Commissioner

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft *Remote Area Concessions and Payments* report. The Territory believes the draft recommendations to abolish or substantially diminish concessions and payments will negatively impact individuals and businesses in regional and remote areas. In the absence of any compensating policy initiatives, this will exacerbate and further entrench the disadvantage faced by regional populations, and be inconsistent with initiatives across different levels of government to develop the north for the benefit of all Australians.

The Territory does not stray from its firm belief that the key policy objectives of the remote area tax concessions and payments should be to:

- promote regional economic development through population growth and incentivising labour and capital to locate to areas where there are identified hardships and cost disadvantages
- compensate people in regional and remote areas for the disadvantages of geographical isolation, high costs of living and harsh climate
- in the current context – and aligned with the Commonwealth's *Planning for Australia's Future Population* strategy – incentivise people to move to regional and remote areas to reduce population pressures in Australia's major east coast cities.

I look forward to seeing the final report, and acknowledge that this submission will be available publicly on your website.

Yours sincerely

NICOLE MANISON

10 OCT 2019

