

Submission on Backpacker Tax Review

I live in [REDACTED] a remote regional town that has most of its income from agricultural (horticultural, fishing and pastoral) and tourism.

Why are international backpackers important and probably a question that gets asked in tandem why can't labour be sought from Australian workers? Simply the nature of the two industry groups revolves around seasonal work and the industries mainly due to climatic impact (very hot summers) cannot sustain a 12 month employment cycle.

What does the backpacker tax mean to our community? The global backpacker market is competitive; if Australia has an unattractive tax environment international visitor workers will go elsewhere – simple. If we cannot find seasonal workers businesses will fail

What other benefits do international backpackers offer our community and Australia;

- To date a reasonably reliable source of labour for mainly minimal undertakings in agricultural and tourism
- Provide economic input to the economy
- Two way cultural exchange; I have personally interacted with hundreds of backpackers over the years and found the exchange to be genuinely rewarding on both sides

Paul Kelly

Chair

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