
JOHN COLLIS

8 September 2016

Working Holidaymaker Visa review

To Whom it May Concern,

I live in Margaret River which is one of Australia's premier holiday destinations.

The attractions here are many and varied, ranging from primary production to artisanal providers of foods, clothing, jewellery and art.

The wine industry here, continues to grow in size and reputation. The reputation of Margaret River and indeed the whole of the South West of Western Australia as a mecca for fine food production, is growing exponentially.

As more and more visitors are attracted by the lure of this area, so the local businesses are able to benefit and grow.

Many of these businesses are dependant on tourists; and at present demand is dependant on the season (though I believe, becoming less so).

There is currently not the level of local population to satisfy the needs of the "seasonality" of the demands for unskilled labor for jobs in primary production and the wine industry. This demand has in the past been met by young people from overseas who are attracted by all of the benefits that we as Australians enjoy, and need not be listed here.

Added to these are those benefits which are peculiar to this area; like our wonderful Mediterranean climate, our surf beaches and our unique flora and fauna.

There is then an equilibrium that has been attained over the last couple of decades between demand and supply of labor, which has been contributed to by the taxation policy as it applies to overseas workers and their visa circumstances.

If the taxation policy changes, as proposed, then the equilibrium will shift. And I would argue, in a very deleterious way.

But it is not so much the stagnation in growth and opportunity that would follow that bothers me. It is the loss of vitality that the influx of young, overseas visitors bring to

the area. These young people teach us about multiculturalism and tolerance and contribute to the suppression of xenophobia. They contribute to the arts, teach us their languages whilst learning ours and contribute to the local culinary scene.

It is also my opinion that the taxation changes would result in less money coming in to the coffers overall but I do not have the capacity to prove this.

So my reasons for maintaining the status quo as regards taxation of these workers are:

1. Loss of vitality and cosmopolitan feel of this region
2. Severe retardation of growth of popularity of the region as a whole.

Local State and Federal governments have invested heavily in promotion of Australia as a tourist destination and proposed changes would to a large extent negate that message of being "open for business"

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute to this debate.

Sincerely yours,

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Dr John Collis

