

Our ref: 10/5/8-10-62

Your ref: Working Holiday Visa Review 96RLYM



1 September 2016

Working Holiday Visa Review
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

RE: Submission to the working holiday maker tax review from Narrandera Shire Council

Relevant Terms of Reference: Relative international competitiveness and protections for vulnerable workers

Should the government decide to tax this labour type, as proposed, then it needs to put in a program to establish a seasonal workforce to meet the seasonal fruit and produce labour demands. The training for such a program could be delivered through TAFE and other providers to develop a pool of Australian workers. These workers could receive a subsidy to be an itinerant seasonal worker or perhaps get a slight tax break. Such a workforce may need accommodation similar to that used by backpackers and this would lessen the impact on that part of the tourism industry.

Relevant Term of Reference: Visa Labour needs of the agricultural sectors

There are a number of agricultural producers in Narrandera Shire reliant on working holiday makers, in particular nut, horticultural and citrus producers.

Other firms rely on overseas contract labour. They are not backpackers as they are not on a working holiday and should not have 471 or 462 visas. They are from overseas and are employed by a labour firm which contract them out at a very low rate.

Relevant Term of Reference: Tax treatments for visa holders

The main issue with this proposed tax is the reliance of fruit and produce growers on seasonal labour mainly provided by backpackers. The backpackers use this type of work to supplement their income while they travel around Australia. If they are taxed too high then this may impact heavily on the labour force undertaking this type of work and reduce the numbers available. If the purpose of government in introducing the tax is to increase revenue, reducing the numbers may defeat this. No backpackers, then no revenue. It may also impact on tourism and the businesses that rely on income from backpackers such as accommodation providers etc.

If you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAC Charlton'.

Judy Charlton
Chief Executive Officer