

I think there has been a lot of resources and people wasted to produce this report that is full of nothing new, we have heard it and read it all for years! *Big words, pretty pictures and describing a future that is nowhere near the reality of living in the outback.*

Just commenting on Page 5 of this report shows up some of the inequities we experience.

If we have .6% of the NSW population, cover 40% of the states area and are the largest contributor to state coffers for mining, and second largest contributor to the state coffers for agriculture. Why aren't we already a vibrant rich region with good roads and reliable water and our communities flourishing because of what we are providing for the state.

I can remember when we used to be subsidised for water, electricity and other services by the state government (way back in the last century). Now the rule of thumb is that user pays for everything.

We are crazy for accepting this as it is not a fair system? Less people cannot afford to pay for the infrastructure of services that are more expensive because of distance, unavailability, less manpower and harsher climate.

We need a stronger voice and a much stronger leader to ensure we are treated fairly.

If we are to use the information provided on page 5 to create a formula:

- Income 783mil for mining and 334mil for agriculture = 1,117 billion dollars
- We are .6% of the population and we are receiving back from the government 40.4million for our communities.
- 40.4million is only .036% and we are 6%. Surely that would be fair to get back 670million. Based on our population.

If we were treated fairly, we would be getting the following:

- Better Highways to withstand:
 - the harsh outback weather conditions
 - the size of the transport carriers including grain, livestock and mineral trucks
 - and the number of dead animals to traverse on the narrow highways
- Better local services In lieu of travelling to other communities for:
 - Health
 - Education
 - Jobs
- Better infrastructure
 - Water
 - Roads
 - Electricity
 - Internet
 - Streetscapes
 - Parks and Reserves

What would that do for our region:

It would provide more opportunities for growth of our population

Unless the Government is prepared to be honest and give real incentive to Far West so it can be sustainable through peaks and troughs of the economic market, then business will only come in, rape the communities and leave again once the resource market collapses again.

Am I being dramatic... no.... I have lived in the region for 64 years and I have seen it over and over again... Why do I stay? Because I love the outback, I love my friends and family. We all endure what the economy dictates and we live in hope that one day it will always be good out here, but that day has come and gone so many times.

I have watched so many people leave because we cannot offer what larger communities offer.

This 20 year plan is crap and it doesn't provide a real solution to living in the Far west in the future.