

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to the exorbitant prices for flying from my home town of Emerald in Central Queensland to Brisbane, our state capital.

For years our community has borne the incredibly high costs of flights charged by the 2 service providers we have (QANTAS and Virgin Australia).

Currently QANTAS' price for flying one way, for a single adult, to Brisbane for Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 is \$703.00!!! One way!!!

The 'explanation' I got from QANTAS is as follows:

"Hi Stephen, fares are always subject to availability and some flights can be popular than others."

This is not fair. How can they justify these prices when a flight from Brisbane to Melbourne (a far greater distance), on the SAME DAY with MULTIPLE FLIGHTS only costs \$200.00?

This price gouging has gone on long enough. Regional Australians should not have to pay these ridiculous prices purely because we're not a capital city. The cost of fuel doesn't change, their wages don't change, and the distance is a lot shorter.

Thank you for your time.

Stephen Swift