

LOCAL FARE SCHEME

What is it?

The Local Fare Scheme (LFS) is an airfare discount of up to \$400* for return air travel administered through participating airlines in the Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and Torres Strait regions.

The scheme aims to improve the standard of living in remote parts of Far North Queensland by reducing the cost of air travel to and from selected airports for eligible residents. Through financial assistance, the scheme allows eligible residents to move around more frequently, enabling social and recreational benefits that in turn will help boost the local economy.

Eligible residents are those who can demonstrate they have lived locally for a minimum of 3 years. To redeem the airfare discount, residents must apply for a Letter of Eligibility through their local Council or authority. Airfares booked under the scheme must be booked through a local ticketing agent.

The minimum fare payable is \$99 each way plus booking fees. A maximum of \$200 off per flight. One-way fares can be booked. Other terms and conditions apply.

**\$400 is the maximum discount available. In some cases, the actual discount may be less than \$400.*

How does the scheme work?

Step 1 – Apply for Eligibility

Local residents must go to the Weipa Town Authority office with photo ID and demonstrate that they have lived in the community for a minimum of 3 years. If approved, the WTA will issue the resident with a 'Letter of Eligibility'.

Step 2 – Buy your ticket

Tickets must be booked through an approved ticketing agent. To access the Local Fare Scheme discount, residents must:

- present photo ID
- provide their Letter of Eligibility
- advise the ticketing agent of their reason for travel to help with the scheme's evaluation.

Step 3 – Travel

- Turn up for the flight
- Present photo ID

Where and when can I lodge my application?

Weipa Town Authority office will accept LFS applications Monday - Friday between 8.30am - 4.00pm.

Who are the ticketing agents in Weipa?

QANTAS

Weipa Business & Leisure Travel, McNamara Centre, Weipa QLD 4874

Ph: 4082 4800

E: weipa@BLT.com.au

When can I start booking discounted airfares?

Tickets can be booked once you have received your letter of eligibility.

How do I prove eligibility?

The WTA will ask you to fill in an application form and provide documentation proving you have lived in Weipa for a minimum of three (3) years.

What documentation could I use to prove eligibility?

Any official documentation with your full name, residential address, and a date of issue for 3 years prior, e.g. electricity bill, rates notice, bank/utility statement etc.

Why do I have to have lived in the community for three (3) or more years?

This criteria is based on feedback received from community members during consultation to ensure people who are long-term local residents benefit from the scheme.

Can I book tickets for family members using the Local Fare Scheme?

Yes, you can book tickets for family members, you just need a copy of their Letter of Eligibility.

What if I lose my Letter of Eligibility? Contact the WTA on (07) 4030 9400 during business hours to receive a copy of your eligibility letter.

How do I book and pay for my airfare?

You must buy your ticket through an approved ticketing agent. Payment can be made in any way accepted by the ticketing agent.

Will I be penalised if I miss a flight?

If you miss a flight, you may be suspended or permanently removed from accessing the scheme.

How often can I use the Scheme?

You can use the Scheme for personal travel, in accordance with the conditions of the Scheme, a maximum of 24 flights during each financial year.

Conditions

- Up to \$400 discount for return travel; up to \$200 discount is applied to each one-way fare, minimum fare payable is \$99 each way, plus booking fees.
- Residents must apply for a Letter of Eligibility through their local Council/authority before booking discounted fares under the Local Fare Scheme.
- Discounted airfares under the scheme are only available through a local Ticketing Agent.
- Discount applies at the airline's discretion.
- Discount cannot be applied to entry level airfares or tactical sale fares.
- Fare rules are in accordance with the fare type booked, set by airlines.
- Discount is for personal air travel only; the scheme cannot be used for business travel.
- Not to be used in conjunction with any other government travel subsidy.
- You can use the scheme for up to 24 flights per financial year.
- Only for use on scheduled air services to selected communities in Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and the Torres Strait.
- Not for use on charter services.
- Transport and Main Roads can change any aspect of the scheme at any time, including but not limited to discount amount, community scope, seat availability and eligibility requirements.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, contact the WTA on (07) 4030 9400, head to the Department of Transport and Main Roads website <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/localfarescheme> or scan the QR code.

