



***TD 96/43 - Income tax: where a taxpayer carries on a business of primary production on a property remote from their usual place of residence and employment/business, is a deduction automatically allowable for travel between: (1) the usual place of work and the property; or (2) the usual place of residence and the property?***

 This cover sheet is provided for information only. It does not form part of *TD 96/43 - Income tax: where a taxpayer carries on a business of primary production on a property remote from their usual place of residence and employment/business, is a deduction automatically allowable for travel between: (1) the usual place of work and the property; or (2) the usual place of residence and the property?*

 This document has changed over time. This is a consolidated version of the ruling which was published on 16 October 1996

This Determination, to the extent that it is capable of being a 'public ruling' in terms of Part IVAAA of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*, is a public ruling for the purposes of that Part. Taxation Ruling TR 92/1 explains when a Determination is a public ruling and how it is binding on the Commissioner. Unless otherwise stated, this Determination applies to years commencing both before and after its date of issue. However, this Determination does not apply to taxpayers to the extent that it conflicts with the terms of a settlement of a dispute agreed to before the date of issue of the Determination (see paragraphs 21 and 22 of Taxation Ruling TR 92/20).

## Taxation Determination

**Income tax: where a taxpayer carries on a business of primary production on a property remote from their usual place of residence and employment/business, is a deduction automatically allowable for travel between:**

- (1) the usual place of work and the property; or**
- (2) the usual place of residence and the property?**

1. No. The fact that a taxpayer travels from their home or usual workplace to a property where the taxpayer carries on a business of primary production does not automatically mean that a full deduction is available for the cost of the trip. The purpose of the trip will determine whether the expenses related to it will be an allowable deduction. Individual circumstances will determine whether the total expense, a portion of the expense, or no expense is deductible under subsection 51(1), or sections 53 or 54 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*.

### **Travel between the usual place of work and the primary production property**

2. Claims for income tax deductions for expenses incurred in travelling directly between places of employment or business are generally allowable (refer to Taxation Ruling IT 2199). However, this may be different if, for example, the primary production property could also be regarded as a second residence or weekend retreat. In these cases, the purpose of each trip will determine whether a deduction is allowable. For example, a trip to complete renovations on a house on the property is not deductible as the purpose of the trip is not to engage in an income earning activity.

### **Travel between the usual place of residence and the primary production property**

3. Travel between home and a primary production property in order to perform or to supervise farming activities is generally considered to be for the purpose of transporting the person to the place where the income producing activities commence. Expenditure on such travel is considered to be private and therefore not deductible. The High Court has stated in relation to 'home to work' travel: '...it may be said to be a necessary consequence of living in one place and working in another...' (per Williams, Kitto and Taylor JJ in *Lunney v. FC of T*; *Hayley v. FC of T* (1958) 100 CLR 478 at 501, (1958) 11 ATD 404 at 414).

4. However, a deduction is generally allowable for any trip where bulky farm goods and equipment are carried (see *FC of T v. Vogt* 75 ATC 4073; (1975) 5 ATR 274), unless there is a

reasonably secure storage area on the property (see *Case N78* 81 ATC 403; (1981) 25 CTBR (NS) *Case 32* and *Case Z22* 92 ATC 230; *Case 7944* (1992) 23 ATR 1189).

5. If a taxpayer travels from home to inspect their primary production property which is rented to a tenant farmer the expense will be an allowable deduction (*FC of T v. Green* (1950) 81 CLR 313; (1950) 9 ATD 142; (1950) 4 AITR 471). If the taxpayer's home is also the base of operations for several farming or other businesses, travel expenses from the home to the primary production property will be deductible even if they supervise or carry out work on the property (*Garrett v. FC of T* 82 ATC 4060; (1982) 12 ATR 684). Where there is a private purpose an apportionment will be necessary.

#### Examples

1. *Col Miner* leaves from work after the night shift to go to his farm property 200 kms away where he conducts a cattle breeding business. This weekend he will be concentrating on completing the new kitchen in the house that is on the property and will do no farm work. The expense of the return trip from the mine to the property for this purpose is not deductible.

2. *V G Grower* travels 80 kms per day between his home and his large market garden where he stores his equipment in sheds. Sometimes he carries equipment home from the property to maintain his domestic garden and then returns it. This travel is considered to be 'home to work' and related expenses are not deductible. The equipment is not carried for a business purpose.

3. *A Gardener* is employed part time and also has a large market garden where she has all equipment stored in sheds. She travels from home to her job and then to her market garden. She then travels directly home. The expenses of the trip from her job to the market garden are fully deductible, but the first and last legs of the journey are private and therefore not deductible.

4. *Mr and Mrs Orchard*, school teachers of Capital City, travel from home to their cattle breeding farm 100 kms away a total of 40 weekends and 2 school holidays during the year. Each trip is made for regular farming activities for the time they are there. On 18 occasions, bulky farm goods are carried to the property and equipment requiring repair is transported from the property to the home. For these trips a deduction is allowable. No deduction is allowable for the other 24 trips as the travel is from home to work and is considered to be private.

5. *W Rensch* owns a service station. He does all of his accounts, debt collection and ordering from his nearby home. He also owns two remote farms on which he employs managers and he directs these operations from home. He visits both farms four times each year - at shearing, crutching, mustering and when the managers go on holiday. He leaves for each trip from home or his business. A deduction is allowed for each trip in these circumstances as he is moving from the centre of his business operations to the remote farms.

#### Commissioner of Taxation

16 October 1996

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Case Ref: *FC of T v. Green* (1950) 81 CLR 313; (1950) 9 ATD 142; (1950) 4 AITR 471; *FC of T v. Vogt* 75 ATC 4073; (1975) 5 ATR 274; *Garrett v. FC of T* 82 ATC 4060; (1982) 12 ATR 684; *Lunney v. FC of T*; *Hayley v. FC of T* (1958) 100 CLR 478, (1958) 11 ATD 404; *Case N78* 81 ATC 403; (1981) 25 CTBR (NS) *Case 32*; *Case Z22* 92 ATC 230; *Case 7944* (1992) 23 ATR 1189

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