




Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Hansard Tuesday, 24 May 2011

CAVAL RIDGE MINE

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—LNP) (11.47 am): My electorate encompasses one of the biggest coalmining towns in the Bowen Basin, and I fully support the Moranbah community's opposition to a 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforce. When I was first elected as the member for Charters Towers in 2004, Moranbah was a town that thrived on a deep sense of community involvement and social participation. The whole town was involved in whatever was happening. But the mining boom saw a massive increase in a non-residential workforce which has resulted in a decline in social interaction and community participation. There is mounting evidence that workers who are disconnected from their family unit are more likely to experience relationship issues. The growth of the mining town depends on workers being given the opportunity to settle their families within the community and not live separate lives. This will encourage community participation and ensure the health, growth and sustainability of these towns.

The Treasurer has announced that the government is considering calling in the Buffel Park 2,500-bed accommodation village. This announcement still does not mean that the government will oppose the 100 per cent fly-in fly-out proposed arrangement. If the Moranbah Caval Ridge mine is permitted a 100 per cent non-resident workforce, the precedent will be set and other mining companies will follow suit.

I call on this government to oppose any application for a 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforce at Moranbah's Caval Ridge mine. Moranbah is more than just a mining town; it is a place where parents are raising their children, where grandparents are retiring and a place they call home. In short, workers and families should also be given the same opportunity to call Moranbah home.