

From the Office of the Mayor
The Hon. Tony McGrady AM



Our Ref: IR 1025015 File 2102 Mayoral Letters General/1006 Priority Infrastructure Plan TM:BC:DM
Your Ref: N/A

Submission No. 009
11.1.2
29 April 2015

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Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and
Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee

Re: Fly in, Fly out and other long distance commuting work practices in regional Queensland

Mount Isa City Council welcomes your invitation to provide a submission to the parliamentary committee on "Fly in, Fly out and other long distance commuting work practices in regional Queensland". We provide the below submission in response to three of the points being considered by the committee;

- "the extent and projected growth in FIFO work practices by region and industry"
- "the costs and/or benefits and structural incentives and disincentives, including tax settings, for companies choosing a FIFO workforce;" and
- "the effectiveness of current responses to impacts of FIFO workforces of the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments"

Mount Isa City Council has proven that FIFO is not required to run a regional City Council of 180 staff. Fly in fly out has a place in society for servicing projects without adjacent infrastructure but for established communities capable of providing the services for the required workforce FIFO erodes both the economics of the City and creates social issues. We recommend that the State and Federal Government adopt a similar approach as both groups are currently utilising FIFO in the North West of the State.

Fly in fly out is only one issue in a series of issues that are widening the divide in regional living in Queensland. We recommend that for projects that are within 100km of an existing town or city that a formal process is designed to ensure the residential/FIFO nature of the development does not have an adverse impact.

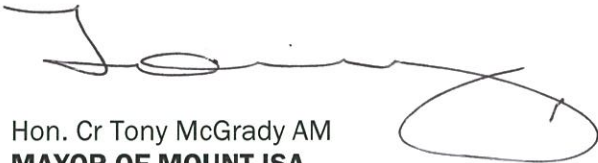
Mount Isa City Council recommends the following actions are taken:

- At a Federal Government level Increase and index the Zone Allowance to provide additional incentive for people to live in regional Australia.

- The Queensland Government appoint an independent board to review Government Employment arrangements in regional centres and provide a mechanism to reduce the percentage of FIFO employees and contractors. Mount Isa City Council would be willing to provide representation on this board.
- Appoint a Regional Development Office to oversee the FIFO and residential proposals of all major projects within 100km of established regional centres and ensure that the development at least sustains the local economy.

Mount Isa City Council will if requested make a representative available should the committee wish to receive further submissions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McGrady', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Hon. Cr Tony McGrady AM
MAYOR OF MOUNT ISA