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Subject:

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Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
FIFO

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Julie Widt  
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To Whom it may concern,

How FIFO (Fly In and Fly Out) and DIDO (Drive In and Drive Out) work forces are affecting our communities? I believe the Government may already know the answer to this and that is why this investigation is being conducted.

I believe also that Government should shoulder a hefty share of the blame for the dilemma all mining communities are presently facing. Through pandering to Mining Companies and allowing them to operate as they see fit with seemingly little to no regard for local communities and local residents seeking employment, capable and able bodied workers who prefer living in a community with their families as opposed to mining camps with the associated long hours away from home, are overlooked. Mining Companies have been given a green light to employ a transient workforce through Labor Hire type Companies which is a system that removes much of the responsibility from the Mining Companies for their employees I believe and the rosters they are made to follow have resulted in a divided workforce which can and may have led to abuse. The term "Divide and Conquer" comes to mind as no community minded people are employed within the community they work and they are not given the chance to connect and form any sort of group that could oppose any condition or contentious issue that may arise.

The flow on effect to the local community of this type of employment regime includes:

- reduced population as the worker has to move on to find employment elsewhere;
- little to no sporting groups as the number of people who have left has resulted in too little participant numbers and higher shared costs;
- a reduction in commercial outlets due to a drop in custom as well as a reduction in choice as remaining outlets struggle to keep their heads above water and maintain financial viability;
- a reduction in the quality of education as lower numbers in classrooms result in fewer teaching staff and potential school closure;
- a drop in general morale as empty houses become shabby;
- less protection from services such as the Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade as volunteers have either moved on or cannot attend call outs as they have to stay at work; and
- a reduction in social activities as groups break up and disappear.

We once had a thriving community with social and sporting events held on a regular basis that could rival many similar events held in much larger communities. Our Bow hunters Club was cited by the National President at the time as being one of the best in the country, our speedway was said to be up there with the best on the East Coast of Australia, our Junior Golf Club was one of the largest and our Football Club has produced top League representatives. All of this has gone now with the Bow hunters just hanging on and the Gun Club I believe is down to only two active members.

What we need is for the Government and Mining Companies to look after these communities as they had in the past which I believe was a condition of them operating in those regions. Both should be helping the towns become and remain appealing communities where families can come and bring up their children in a safe and friendly environment with a support group of local people.

I hope this investigation will uncover and thoroughly look at all of these issues and result in positive outcomes for all concerned.

Yours sincerely

Julie Widt.