

DYSART COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOC. INC.

P.O. Box 255, Dysart, QLD, 4745 [REDACTED]

Dysart was purpose built in 1973 to cater to Saraji and Norwich Park coal mines. It is situated 250km south-west of Mackay and 330km north-west of Rockhampton. The Bowen Basin Population Report, June 2014, estimates Dysart's permanent resident population to be 3,295 and non-resident population as 1,735.

There are currently 4 camps in Dysart. The Civeo Dysart Village in Queen Elizabeth Drive; the BMA (BHP Mitsubishi Alliance) camp in Fisher Street; The Stay Over Camp in Fisher Street; and Lake Vermont Village, owned by Thies (Leighton Holdings) also on Queen Elizabeth Drive. According to Civeo's web site the village features more than 1700 rooms.

With the Camp's having their own store there is no need for these workers to spend money at our supermarkets, by having their own wet canteen there is no need for these workers to spend money at the Jolly Collier, our local hotel, by having their own pizzas available there is no need for these workers to spend money at our local Pizza Shop.

By allowing FIFO/DIDO/BIBO to continue Dysart will suffer further. Because these workers earn their money here but take it out of town our small business will suffer, maybe even forcing more to close. The only local businesses that seem to profit from these camps is the Service Stations as workers buy fuel as they are leaving town.

A once full and prosperous shopping centre, Garden Plaza, now has more vacancies than occupants with only 8 businesses remaining. All are struggling to keep their doors open. The last several years has seen closure of many businesses including ANZ bank, the butcher and clothing stores. Another shopping centre, Jacaranda Court was closed during the mining boom when the owner wanted to capitalise on building units instead of keeping shops open. Since the down turn this shopping centre remains closed.

With the closure of Norwich Park mine in 2012 Dysart's population decreased with miners being relocated to other mines within the Bowen Basin. Some of these miners remain living in Dysart. These miners have considerable experience in the mining industry but are deemed to be unemployable because of the location criteria in the job applications. Wouldn't it make sense to employ people who live locally thereby decreasing the cost of plane flights? Training costs would also decrease as these experienced miners would not need the training that workers living in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide etc would need.

The rate of single vehicle accidents on the Peak Downs highway has drastically increased over the last several years with the increase in drive in drive out work force.

There are currently only 2 police officers in Dysart, this number is based on the resident population and does not factor in the increasing number of transient workers. When one officer is on leave and there is an issue which requires police presence then the officer on duty must wait until he gets support from either Middlemount or Moranbah police, approximately 60 minutes away.

Other essential services impacted by the unprecedented influx of FIFO/DIDO/BIBO workers include Dysart's ambulance service, Dysart Hospital, and Dysart Medical Centre, with undue pressure placed on all of these services by the swelling numbers of non resident workers. The situation for these essential services can only be expected to worsen as the FIFO/DIDO/BIBO workforce increases. Most allied health services no longer visit mining communities.

Effort and consideration needs to be place by both mining companies and government to increase the likelihood of families and businesses investing both time and effort into long term sustainability of mining communities.

FIFO/DIDO/BIBO is a reality of the current mining industry but workers should be able to choose whether they live in our town or commute.

What Dysart needs is for more family housing. Unfortunately my grandchildren will not grow up in the family friendly atmosphere of the old Dysart that I and my children grew up in.

Regards

Anne Ahern

Secretary

Dysart Community Action Assoc