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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Please consider this submission into the "Fly in, fly out and other long distance commuting work practices in regional Queensland" inquiry.

At first I thought this was ok then as time went by I began to experiencing difficulties fitting back into family life. The pressures of FIFO strained my relationship so much so that I separated from my spouse and family. It just was not worth the complications that have been created. This was a FIFO job into the tanami dessert. The company really had no alternatives available in this situation. It is the most remote mine site in Australia.

I have quite a few concerns with FIFO particularly within the Bowen basin where it simply is not needed. I have concerns about the well being of such a workforce and the impacts it may have on their families. I also have concerns about the local economy and local job market. FIFO is a direct attack on the people and communities of North Queensland. It is extremely destructive to our small businesses and is insulting to the skilled workforce we have ready and available here.

BMA for example blows dust all over mooranbah from its cavil ridge operation and yet the locals are locked out from this job. I would think that this well and truly falls into the discrimination basket, it is unnecessary for this operation to be fly in fly out at all. There is no labour skills shortage in North Queensland at this present time. Therefore absolutely no requirement for this destructive practice to be taking place.

Maybe we should suggest that next time a large project is to be undertaken in Brisbane or any major centre that all employment is sourced exclusively from the Bowen basin. Now to put things into context how stupid does that sound, as Brisbane I am sure has no skills shortage in the current climate either. The idea is preposterous ! Brisbanes workers would feel deeply insulted as we already do here in the Bowen basin.

Mining communities need to have the opportunity to get back on track.

I am extremely concerned about what future our communities may face, the communities that have served and made the mining companies the profitable businesses they are today.

I also have quite a few concerns about camp life and the both mental and physical health problems associated with such a lifestyle. There are many studies that have been done on this topic, there is no need for me to delve into this as there is much evidence available, the findings are damning.

FIFO should only be used as a last resort in times of great skills shortages. The practice should be minimised as much as reasonably possible. People should be encouraged to live nearby where the work. The benefits for both employees and employer are second to none. It provides a great flexibility for employee and

employer alike. The FIFO practice should be abolished in its entirety where communities already exist (Bowen basin). There also needs to be some very much tightened up legislation to prevent companies engaging in such practices.

Regards

Damian Kenny

