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Importance: Low

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.

Watching families fall apart. I'm a 25 year resident of Blackwater. It is destroying that town and others like it. I work in the mines, have done for 13 years. I also own 2 small businesses, one in Blackwater the other in Emerald. I'm currently experiencing every aspect of every change companies make to their work force arrangements. I've seen first hand what FIFO and DIDO does to families. It's something that can't be documented and companies like it that way.

When did Australians start putting where they live before coming home to their wife and kids every night? I'll take a cuddle and hear the excited banter from my kids any day over living at the "beach". Even those that are pro-FIFO sometimes open up regarding the fact that they're missing seeing their kids grow up. This shouldn't even be something any Aussie has to endure. The continued push to these arrangements is really driving the communities that support these mines to the wall. Businesses are struggling/closing (mine included). Blokes are penned up in dongas like battery hens and that's the way the companies like it, it gives them control. Someone who is on a 5-7 day swing can't support his or her spouse if there is troubles/struggles. The further away the home base is the better for the company; you have to stay. Sporting teams struggle for numbers and volunteers also, it's tearing the heart out of vibrant communities.

The companies should make it more attractive for employees to reside in town. They're happy to pay \$880 per week for an employee to reside in a camp, feed them, bus them to work. However the local employee who's partner works in the tuck shop at school or coaches the local footy team gets nothing. Stop putting company super profits before families and communities. You want to mine our resources you look after our citizens. Yes give the choice to the employee as to where and how they live. FIFO may suit a 21 yo single person who likes to party in the big smoke, things change. People get married and have kids, with that comes struggles and challenges.

Temporary/contract labour is another issue. They control these workers with fear, fear that they won't have a job tomorrow, fear that they'll take another pay cut. They have families just like anyone else but their future is unsure.

I'm sure mining CEO's sit back and laugh about how they have the Australian government wrapped around their little fingers. FIFO from foreign cheap labour countries is next.

Happy to provide more of my view if needed.

Regards

Tim Armstrong

