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Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural
Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Submission to the Queensland FIFO Inquiry

My name is Frederick John Hempseed, I am a retired coal mine worker. I started at Kianga Coal Companies- Kianga Open Cut on the 17 April 1972. I was retrenched from Anglo American at Moura Dawson Coal Mine on 5 December 2012.

All my working life in the Coal Industry I spent in the Kianga and Moura Fields. I came to Moura as a single 21 year old and moved into the single men's barracks until I got married in April 1973. We (Mary & I) purchased a 2nd hand caravan and moved into the private Caravan Park. This was our home for 12 months until we were finally on the top of the TDM (Thiess Dampier Mitsui) Moura housing list. We were very excited to finally have a rented housing commission house to call 'our home'.

Moura at that time was a nice vibrant country town with a mixture of mine workers, rural people both living in the town and in the surrounding country and the business owners and their employees, along with the school teachers, ambulance and police necessary to support the town and district.

Housing, there was SMQ with permanent residents, 2 Caravan Parks to cater for married people waiting for housing. Also a mixture of rental and privately owned housing and flats. The company (TPM) was continuing to build more houses and also the Queensland Housing commission were also expanding their number of houses in Moura. Queensland Rail was also active in Moura and they owned some houses for their workforce. Population at this time was approximately 2500 by memory.

Moura's underground disasters in 1975, 1986 and 1994 had impacts on the town with families having to move to different towns for the husbands work.

Moura has always had a certain amount of people who were DIDO because workers came from the close surrounding towns of Biloela, Banana, Baralaba and Theodore. The business people were still confident about the towns' future and so were the towns' people/workers. A vast number of companies owned or guaranteed rental homes were purchased by the mine workers and several brick homes were built on vacant land in town.

With the mines ownership changing hands several times and Anglo's decision to expand the mine with north and south pits added to the existing central pit and their being no available

housing in town. The only answer for Anglo was to remove any workers who lived permanently in the SPQ and add more 'Donga Accommodation' to cater for the expansion workforce. There finished up about 1000 extra rooms at the old SPQ and a new company camp 'Kotti doon'. We had a construction workforce move in to town that more than filled Kotti-doon camp.

At that point in time there were enough workers to warrant 4 Doctors to cater for them. That was double the amount that we had originally-2. At the same time the business people in town were very worried about their future because they were not getting any increase of business out of the extra workers. They came to work, stayed at the camps and then left on their days off. New Cafes opened up and were ready to cater for the expanded workforce but today they are closed or worrying about the future.

When families move out because children want certain education standards you finish up with a reduction of subjects able to be offered at schools then more families are affected and they move out of town as well. Also affected are number of Police volunteer fire aids, school teachers, and ambulance, health and government services. If families come to or remain in Moura it gives the whole community a big lift. It is the exact opposite when you have houses occupied by 3 or 4 men or women who don't participate in any sports or activities in town.

Moura today has had a very bad result because of FIFO/DIDO practices that exist today. As I said before there is very little confidence in the business community. If 50% of the FIFO/DIDO workers brought their families to town there would be a different opinion of Moura's future. FIFO/DIDO causes havoc in our industry towns.

The Coroner Hennessy report on road deaths in Central Queensland a few years ago highlighted the dangers to mine workers and other road users that DIDO is responsible for. Gong home after a 12-14 hour shift is a lot easier and safer to all road users, if it is to your loving family in a mining town than to a loving family 5-6 hours away.

Of all Moura's problems FIFO/DIDO has caused the most issues since I started in the coal industry. That is no disrespect to any worker or family who has been affected by the loss of a loved one killed or maimed at work.

Yours Sincerely



Frederick J Hempseed