

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2015 11:15 AM

**To:** Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

**Subject:** Re: Comments on FIFO

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Good morning,

I am writing to you in regards to the current Parliamentary Enquiry into FIFO work arrangements and mines that currently operate on a FIFO basis.

I am a professional FIFO worker working an 8 days on 6 days off roster.

I'll start off by quoting a statistic I heard on ABC Tropical North this morning; it went along the lines of: "Moranbah, since 2012 has seen an average drop in housing values of 71%". This is an alarming statistic that highlights the impact of boom and bust cycles that mining experiences. It is my view that FIFO work arrangements help shelter the impact of these cycles from the mining communities in regional Queensland. By 'controlling' population levels in towns like Moranbah during boom periods you can then lessen the impact of a downturn on the local community, FIFO is one means.

With coal prices at a low and no great upside on the horizon I think that FIFO lessens future risk to mining communities. If the government was to mandate that current FIFO operations cease their current practice of FIFO and operate on a residential basis it is my belief that this would have a negative long term impact on the local community. This would require the construction of enough housing to accommodate all the workers, associated infrastructure and public services. If any of the mines were to become unprofitable and went into care and maintenance these communities would overnight see a massive increase in unemployment rates and in time the social and economic issues associated with unemployment would impact the community. Having FIFO in the employment mix reduces this risk.

I work for BHPB (BMA Coal) and am very happy with my current FIFO arrangements. We work favourable even time rosters (7/7, 8/6) and have a very good and diverse culture on site; I completely dismiss many of the negative stereotypes that are shown in the media about FIFO.

If any changes are to come come from this enquiry they should be looking at some of the longer working rosters people work in many construction projects. The 4 week on 1 week off and similar. I think that these long rosters pose a bigger threat to people's welfare and social lives than the BHPB FIFO operations out of Moranbah.

Thanks for your time.