

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee,

Parliament House,  
George Street,  
BRISBANE. QLD 4000

Dear Committee members,

I have lived in the Blackwater community for over 40 years and having read the recommendations of the Windsor inquiry I would like to submit a submission to your inquiry.

- The Windsor inquiry report outlined recommendations and suggestions, which should all be taken on board by this current inquiry into FIFO/DIDO and the major impact it is having on business and services in all regional communities in Australia.
- FIFO/DIDO – most definitely should be the exception not the general rule in existing resource based communities. Workers should have “choice” and the 100% FIFO discrimination against workers living in these communities should never happen again (ie: Cavell Ridge in Moranbah).
- Families should not be forced by big mining companies to this practice if there are other alternatives.
- I strongly support the idea of compiling nationally consistent data regarding the impact of fly-in, fly-out workforces on housing, infrastructure, healthcare, education, social services and future planned resource development.
- The facts are that now the Mining Boom is over – there are many vacant properties available for accommodation. Hopefully, with good planning we will never see the overinflated price of housing and rentals that came along with the boom. This drove many people who wanted to live in these towns out because they simply could not afford to live there.
- With more affordable land, housing and rentals now available – these existing resource based communities are in a position to welcome families back into their communities.
- I would like to submit to this inquiry that Tax incentives to Mining Companies for this practice be reviewed. If mining companies can claim FIFO as a Tax offset – it discriminates against employees who choose to live in the regional communities.
- As a general rule, people should be encouraged with strong incentives to live in these inland regional communities. Big companies and poor government decisions should not have the final say on where people should or should not live. If we have strong regional communities we will have a strong Australia. After all, much of the wealth of this country is generated in rural communities.

- Our greatest resource is our people. Without a doubt, the FIFO mentality is destroying once vibrant family based communities.

I would like to sincerely thank Jim Pearce and his team for their persistence and dedication in bringing this issue to the attention of our leaders in government.

Kind regards,

*C. M. Gothmann 18/05/2015*

Cheryl Gothmann

