

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.

I am aware of mining jobs in some Queensland mines that have become only available to workers who are prepared to live and commute (FIFO) either from Cairns or Brisbane, leaving local mine workers no job opportunities in these mines, if they wish to live and raise their families locally. All workers should have a choice as to their living and working arrangements that suit them and their family.

If FIFO/long distance commuting is not addressed we will continue to see; Mining towns, families and communities suffer as is now the case in a number of the mining towns in Queensland, we see local businesses suffer and close and with the preference for mining companies to use a commuting workforce FIFO/DIDO were workers are confined to camps during their tour with little or no opportunity to spend money or engage and socialise in the local community, this is no help to regional growth. The longer work hours plus commuting time contributes to many fatigue related incidents...

Family breakdowns and relationship strain along with mental health issues is a concerns for mine workers forced to spend long tours away from their families, these issues should not be the price workers have to pay to continue working in the mining industry.

For the future of mining towns and strong community values, stop approvals for 100% compulsory FIFO and reverse existing 100% compulsory FIFO. Allow mine workers to choose were they and their family wish live - not be enforced by mining companies. Mining approvals to include community impact statement outlining commitment to local jobs and engagement with local businesses.

Improve conditions and worker freedoms in accommodation camps.

Regards

Rick Hibble