

The Chairperson,
Committee to Inquire into and report on FIFO
Parliament House,
Brisbane 4000

Dear Sir,

The Wandoan Community, Commerce and Industry Association would like to submit its views on the practice of a Fly in/Fly our (FIFO) workforce and how it impacts our community.

Wandoan is situated in the Surat Basin, which over the past three years has been the hub of significant resource activity in particular the development and growth of gas industry.

HEALTH

Wandoan has a modern Primary Health Centre staffed by a part time Doctor and a full time Nurse Practitioner. This enables personnel to access medical assistance five days a week, **if they are given permission to come to town**. Wandoan also has a modern pharmacy open five days a week.

The resident Nurse Practitioner, Mr Paul Baker, will be adding his comments to this submission.

PROJECTED GROWTH OF FIFO WORKFORCE

When development began, the community were told there would be work opportunities for local people. Local business would also benefit from the additional workers, these projects would bring to the region. While some locals may have been employed initially, this has been scaled back in favour of an almost total FIFO workforce. Like many rural and regional areas we recognise our community does not have a large number of skilled workers. This increases the need to bring skilled people to the region, the search for local skilled workers or training opportunities were very limited and not publicised.

The Resource Companies need to be required to employ local people when possible.

With many of the gas companies now moving from construction to operations and maintenance, this is when the resource sector should encourage skilled workers to reside in the local communities. This should also be the time to offer training to locals giving workers the opportunity to have a long term career, which would allow them to stay in region, helping to give rural communities a future.

EFFECT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESS

It has been brought to our attention that the FIFO workforce is no longer being housed in Wandoan. Despite there being modern, purpose built accommodation in town (now standing empty) all personnel (including sub contractors) are required to live in Resource owned camps at some distance from town.

We have been given to understand that Company employees are discouraged from coming to town to shop or participate in local community functions and sporting events. This is a "Company Image" decision.

FIFO can contribute significantly to local business and community organisations if camps are located within a reasonable distance to the regional towns as well allowing and encouraging workers to support local business, social and sporting clubs.

Local businesses and sporting clubs would benefit greatly, if this accommodation issue could be changed and the control over after hours activities could be relaxed.

Achieving balance between the skilled needs of the resource industry and the needs of the local community is critical to not only the survival of rural towns but also the health of those who choose to live and work in them.

Families living locally (FLL) workforce with housing incentives would make a huge difference to rural towns in Queensland close to natural resource projects.

Short term contracts make it very unlikely that families would relocate.

Rural towns need to benefit from Resource Projects. At present there is no benefit at all.

Thank you for allowing the Wandoan Community, Commerce, and Industry Association the opportunity to provide input into the impacts of FIFO inquiry.

Kind Regards



Kaylene Clarris

President

Wandoan Community, Commerce and Industry Association