Date:	Wednesday, 27 May 2015 8:36:27 AM
Attachments:	Qld FIFO inquiry submission.pdf

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.

Living in Mackay and near Moranbah, I have been amazed at how quickly a government agreement with a private company has affected our town(s). Mackay went from a place of demand, bustling with business to empty houses and shops in less than six months. Anecdotal evidence from those applying for mine jobs, or who want to keep their current position are advised they must live in the Gold Coast, Brisbane or Cairns. I know of some miners who have moved to Brisbane from Mackay, are now flown in and out to catch a bus to work at the mine that used be within driving distance. This is madness.

Destruction of regional community. Dislocation of family structure. Have a beer at a pub with a bloke who misses his family. They are lost souls but feel deep responsibility for the people they love living so far away and don't feel they have the option of an alternative. In monetary terms, family break up is expensive to the individual AND society. In emotional terms, no price can fix the pain.

Have the FEDERAL government change policy on fringe benefit tax for short term businesses such as mining. Perhaps even retain the fringe benefit tax for the duration of the mine and then return the funds (or part of) to the company in wind-up or shut-down stage. Make it feasible for the mines to keep their workers' families together. Keep our regions alive. After all, isn't the stress on city infrastructure already causing issues? And, investigate what contract mining companies and airlines seem to have in place - there's something going on there that makes me wonder what deal has been done. What does the ATO demonstrate for travel costs to contractors supplying the workforce to the mines? Government contracts to airlines are always paid at premium prices, has the same outrageous price been offered to the mining companies? I doubt it at the rate of FIFO traffic.

Regards

Kerry Schultz