



Speech by


**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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## **CHARTERS TOWERS ELECTORATE, MINING INDUSTRY**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—LNP) (8.50 pm): This morning I tabled a petition on behalf of Herberton residents calling on the minister to reconsider the proposed route to transport copper deposits from the Baal Gammon copper mine in Watsonville. This petition, signed by residents of Herberton and the surrounding districts, draws to the attention of the House the fact that the Baal Gammon copper mine is considering using the main street of Herberton as a route to transport copper deposits from its mine at Watsonville. Kagara mining company advised residents that there will be 30 round trips a day of ore trucks between 6 am and 10 pm. The development of the Baal Gammon mine will bring many benefits to the town, but these benefits should not come at the expense of the lifestyle that attracts many elderly retirees and families to Herberton. The town is situated in a steep, hilly area and drivers will have to use air brakes and change gears at many points as they travel through the most heavily populated residential areas.

The proposed route will force trucks onto the steep narrow roads used by children walking home from two schools and a technical college. There is a duty of care to residents that any transport route would not put children's lives at risk. The route will also run trucks needing to use air brakes past the palliative care wing at the Herberton Hospital and through the central business district, which is totally unsatisfactory, especially considering there are viable alternatives that have been put forward by the community. Another concern is the steep incline leading into the business district, which led residents to lobby for a pedestrian crossing earlier this year—a request that was rejected by Main Roads. The proposed route will mean elderly residents have to negotiate crossing the main street without a pedestrian crossing while a truck bears down a steep hill towards them.

The people of Herberton want the minister to guarantee that the route most suitable and mutually beneficial is approved for the Baal Gammon mine. There needs to be a common-sense approach that balances the needs of the Herberton community with the requirements of mining developments in the area. I call on the minister to ensure that the people of Herberton get a fair go and find an alternative transport route for the Baal Gammon mine.

On another note, the recent decision by the government to give BHP Billiton the all clear for a 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforce at Moranbah Cavil Ridge Mine when residents have clearly expressed opposition to such a move is farcical and another example of this government's disregard for mining communities. The community has been fighting for the 70/30 ratio workforce to reside in Moranbah and has invested time, energy and resources into negotiations. The minister has dug out some old commitments and polished them up to make them look like his government has delivered something for this community. A number of housing and youth centre commitments the minister announced have been rehashed and at the same time the minister has tried to set a perception that 80 per cent of the workforce will reside in mining communities. This government's treatment of the mining community of Moranbah is deplorable.