



Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Moranbah, Fly-in Fly-out Workforce

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.13 pm): This week I asked the Deputy Premier—

With over 300 vacant homes in Moranbah and Dysart, coupled with the lay-off of 700 BMA employees, mostly community based, will the minister negotiate a compromise agreement with mining companies for a gradual reduction of the 100 per cent FIFO workforce—

to 70 per cent over a period of three to five years and replace them with community based employees—

to generate confidence in the future of the region?

While the Deputy Premier again dodged the question, the reality is that the lifespan of mining towns in Central Queensland is in jeopardy if the state government and mining companies continue along this path.

The recent sacking of 700 BMA employees, mostly community based employees, rings alarm bells that the state government must start supporting the families and businesses that live and work around these mining communities. After these sackings, concern was so great that I had community members contacting me to discuss how we can address this serious issue. I will read part of an email from Peter Finlay, a former Moranbah Traders Association representative. He states—

The Moranbah community has suffered extreme downturn as a result of BMA Coal and other companies using 100% FIFO, and this is just another kick in the guts. It is going to create severe financial strain on individuals, families, and businesses here and we need your support. The market day is a perfect opportunity to speak to as many people as possible in a short time.

I table that email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 26 September 2014, to the member for Dalrymple, Mr Shane Knuth MP, from Mr Peter Finlay, regarding the loss of jobs at BMA Coal [\[6295\]](#).

I was also contacted by Trehan Stenton, the President of the Moranbah Traders Association, seeking support for funding from both the state and federal governments to help keep businesses and specialist services in Moranbah. Part of that reads—

Dear Shane

I am writing to you regarding the announcement this week by BHP/BMA confirming the redundancy of 700 employees from the Isaac Region.

Obviously this decision will not just have a significant impact on Moranbah's Businesses and the local Community, but also a knock on implication across the entire State. This comes on top of other economic downturn factors that are now having a major cumulative effect.

We are seeking assistance for our Community to enable us to work through these impacts and the changes we need to make to ensure we can continue to provide sustainable business, both now and into the future. We are requesting that funds be released and allocated from Federal and State Government to allow for specialist support in our Community.

I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 September 2014, to the member for Dalrymple, Mr Shane Knuth MP, from Trehan Stenton, regarding the redundancy of 700 employees from the Isaac region [\[6296\]](#).

So ridiculous is the situation that even though the local baker has received a tick for making the finest quality breads and pastries, the mining company sources its bread from coastal cities.

There is a remedy to this problem. That is to give mining employees an opportunity to live and work in the places where they are employed. Reports revealed that a fly-in fly-out lifestyle contributes to family disruption and separation. The simple solution would be for the minister to sit down with the mining companies and negotiate and introduce a gradual reduction in the FIFO workforce over a three- to five-year period.