




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Notice

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.04 pm): I want to thank the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for the work they initiated with regard to the FIFO inquiry. It was a lot of work and involved a lot of hearings in a lot of towns and a lot of frustrations. It is great to see that the 19 recommendations they put forward have been well received, particularly in the mining communities. We do acknowledge that one of the things that came out, most importantly, is about choice. There is nothing worse than having a position that has been put forward that no-one can work in a particular mine unless they live in a certain place. The member for Mirani brought up at the rally yesterday the fact that people are living in towns like Moranbah and Dysart and they get on a plane and fly to Brisbane and then they fly back. They get on a bus and travel to work. They stay in the accommodation, the village at the site. They work their shift, fly to Brisbane and then fly back to Moranbah to be with their family. That is just absolutely ridiculous.

The recommendation to give choice is a good move and it is a great initiative. That was the feeling from most of the community members, particularly businesses. For example, the Moranbah bakery has been trying to get the mining companies to buy their bread. They could then employ people and provide fresh bread, but instead it is brought in from Rockhampton. This is particularly important when businesses are going broke. There are also the motels. The companies have told the contractors that they cannot get a job in the mine unless they stay in the camps and we see the motels going broke. We see the businesses going broke and we see the mining companies not supporting those communities like they did in the past.

When you look at providing that incentive and giving them the opportunity to have their choice, it gives families the choice to live there. If they do not want to live there, that is their choice. If they want to live in Brisbane or Cairns, that is up to them. But they should at least be given the choice as to where they live so that when their young ones finish school they do not have to go to Brisbane so they can work in Moranbah. It is common sense.

I say congratulations to the committee and congratulations to the member for Mirani on the hard work he put in. This was really difficult stuff. This inquiry was a lot of hard work. It involved a lot of sleepless nights, a lot of travel and a lot of time was put into this. I commend these recommendations to the House.