




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2017

STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE COMMUNITIES BILL

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (7.56 pm): I support the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Bill 2016. I believe that this bill ends 100 per cent FIFO. It also removes the discrimination aspect of living in the mining town and having no hope of getting a job in that 100 per cent FIFO mine. Locals can now apply for a job at the mine and not be discriminated against because they are a local. People who live outside the mining town region can apply and move to that mining community without being discriminated against. Caval Ridge is right at Moranbah's door and it is very disappointing that the BMA 100 per cent FIFO mine does not support the community one iota. They do not employ locals. They do not support local businesses. They do not buy bread or bakery items from the local bakeries; they source bread 1,000 kilometres away.

FIFO workers use hospital resources, ambulance services and QGAP resources. They stretch services to maximum capacity yet at the same time these big mining companies deliver nothing to those communities. I will give members an illustration of what these communities have been going through year in, year out. If a person wanted a job at Caval Ridge, right at the door of Moranbah, they would have to fly to Brisbane at their own cost, get on a plane, fly back to the camp and stay there for 10 days or however long it may be, fly back to Brisbane and then fly back to Moranbah to be at home with their family for the next few days. That is discrimination.

The Bligh government was responsible for the 100 per cent fly-in fly-out debacle. They did not listen to the communities or the local councils. I acknowledge Mayor Anne Baker, Councillor Kelly Vea Vea and Councillor Gina Lacey who have led the campaign. Without them this bill would not be before the House. Their dedication, passion, determination and their will to see something that was unjust pushed aside has resulted in this bill, and this is a very proud moment for them and for me as the member of parliament for that region.

The Bligh government was kicked out and I believe that FIFO was a factor in that, as were asset sales. They lost government and were reduced to only seven seats. When the Newman government was voted in there was a belief that they would do something about FIFO, but they got into bed with the mining companies and did nothing for the resource communities. I hear the LNP boasting and bragging about caring for the communities and the workers, but where is their bill? Where is the LNP legislation? There is none! We were expecting the Newman government to resolve the problems of FIFO, but the first thing they did was to sack 16,000 workers. They spent \$750 million on the Taj Mahal in William Street, while Moranbah people had to fly to Brisbane simply to get jobs in the mining industry. The best they could do was to get rid of the pensioners' lawn-mowing vouchers. Most of the members I see on this side of the House were very proud members of that Newman government.

Mr COSTIGAN: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the member for Dalrymple's passion for his community, but I ask you to rule on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): There is no point of order.

Mr KNUTH: I believe that the passage of this bill to prohibit 100 per cent FIFO will be history making. I do not believe that the LNP deserve to take any credit for it. What did they do about the canegrowers? Nothing! They set a perception that they did something. Did they introduce legislation? No! They talked about how they were going to do something about ethanol, but what did they do? Absolutely nothing!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Dalrymple, you are straying well away from the purpose of the bill. I urge you to come back to the meaning of the bill.

Mr KNUTH: This bill will mean that people who live in those townships will be able to apply for jobs without being discriminated against. I have seen that happen. I have talked to mums who are concerned that their children cannot get jobs in the local mine unless they move to Brisbane. No doubt this legislation will strengthen those resource communities. This will create an atmosphere where families are confident to come and stay and play sport and go to school, which is what mining communities used to be about.

I support this bill. The Coordinator-General is to ask for a social impact assessment, which is a very good aspect of the bill. The councils, which have been ignored over the years, will have greater control of and input into who is employed in the mines. Employees will not be discriminated against on the basis of where they live. I commend the bill to the House.