




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Fly-in Fly-out Workforces

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.39 pm): I rise to talk about the scourge of FIFO and its impact on areas in the north-west, particularly towns such as Mount Isa and Cloncurry. Recently, in Cloncurry I spoke with Mayor Greg Campbell about mines that have been opened in his area. It is really nothing short of outrageous that a new mine such as Dugald River could be constructed 70 kilometres from Cloncurry and that, at last count, between five and 10 employees out of a workforce of over 400 people are from Cloncurry. To me, the operators of that mine are smiling smugly at the local people in Cloncurry—the people of Queensland—and are not making any effort to contribute to the area.

My area does not get much benefit from royalties. The mine operators dig the dirt out of our ground and impact local services. A lot of employees of the mine come to some towns and say unfavourable things about them on social media. The one thing that we can get out of the labour at those mines is the wages to be put into the businesses in these towns around the mining areas.

I have put a lot of work into keeping mines viable and making sure that they have an environment in which they can operate sustainably. They have to put something back. It is not enough for the operators of these mines—the likes of MMG and Round Oak—to smile smugly and bring in these fly-in fly-out contractors. There are too many contractors in the workforce. Mount Isa is full of contractors now. People cannot afford to buy a home there. The banks will not lend them money because they do not have a permanent job. The bottom line of these mining companies looks good, but they are not looking after the towns. They are ruining the fabric of these towns by stealth. Places like Mount Isa and Cloncurry are really struggling. The prices of the minerals there have gone up. Everyone is saying, 'Mining is good.' It is not good in the towns. They are still struggling like they were during the GFC.

The government should stand up and be strong. The social impact assessment needs to be legislated. The KAP will be looking at legislating that, because there is just not enough grunt coming from the government to force these people to make these decisions. With what has happened at Dugald River, they have proved that they are not going to do it passively. The operators of Round Oak are not upholding their commitments to local Indigenous people who want a guarantee of a job. The operators are finding new and creative ways to stop them from employing Indigenous people. They love getting in their contractors who come in and trash the towns.

The operators of these mines are denying people the opportunity to have their families living in the suburbs of these towns. Workers are not being provided with the chance that their parents may have had to go out to these areas and experience the adventure and the wonderful lifestyle that we have out there. Unless the government forces the companies to cut down on FIFO, it will not happen. We must cut down on FIFO and the impact of contract workers on our towns.