

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 899

asked on Thursday, 17 September 2015

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**MR KATTER** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (DR LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent announcement of the Glencore George Fisher Mine towards an even time (7 day) roster which is expected to enhance the opportunity for Fly-in Fly-out (FIFO) therefore threatening the character of Mt Isa city—

Will the Minister declare his opposition to this decision given that the neighbouring Glencore copper operations have not seen it necessary to make a similar change?

ANSWER:

With falling commodity prices and a need to reduce costs, the mining industry is looking at ways of making operations more cost effective.

Any change to the manner in which mines operate is going to be closely watched by all stakeholders.

On 24 and 25 September 2015, employees at Glencore's George Fischer mine overwhelmingly voted in support of a seven-day-on, seven-day-off roster. Over 95 per cent of votes favoured this option.

I acknowledge the concern that some stakeholders may have that a seven-day-on, seven-day-off roster may encourage employees to adopt fly-in, fly-out arrangements. However, Glencore has stated it does not promote this lifestyle and is committed to ensuring George Fischer remains a mine supported by residential workers. I support this commitment, as I know that a strong residential workforce is important to Mount Isa.

Over 96 per cent of Glencore's 1,300 strong workforce resides in and around Mount Isa.

I am pleased that Glencore's George Fischer mine will continue to provide a place of employment for the people of Mount Isa.

I am advised the new rostering arrangement is expected to provide workers with 10 more weekends off roster every year. This change should allow workers to increase their availability to participate in local sporting and community groups, as well as providing more time for family and friends.

The measures proposed by Glencore strike the right balance between maintaining a mine operation that is cost effective while still supporting local jobs.

It is important that these measures, and any future measures proposed by Glencore, strike the right balance between maintaining a mine operation that is cost effective, while still supporting local jobs.