

Your Reference:
Our Reference: RG:dh (CM21.1)
Contact: Ray Geraghty

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27 September 2011

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Regional Australia
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

**Re: Inquiry into the use 'fly-in, fly-out' (FIFO) workforce practices in
Regional Australia**

Banana Shire Council is concerned about the sustainability of the communities within the Bowen and Surat Basins and requests the following areas be considered within the Fly In – Fly Out enquiry –

- Cost shifting by resource companies by encouraging workers to live elsewhere so they do not have to invest in infrastructure
- The lack of long term commitment by many of the resource companies to Rural and Regional communities
- The lack of long term and genuine commitment by State Government to build rural communities and their ongoing support for FIFO
- The non-existent or poor state planning processes that do not allow rural Councils to be able to plan and manage growth
- The non-existent or poor state policies requiring resource companies to invest in sustainable rural communities
- The policies within government that actively encourage resource companies not to engage with Councils, resulting in resource companies believing that Councils are unimportant in the process and can be ignored until work is about to begin

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- All aspects of the social issues that are created when one parent is away from home for extended periods, including pressure on support agencies, education, health, mental health, mono culture suburbs, family separation and divorce, child safety etc
- Driver fatigue and road accidents
- The reinstatement of the tax incentive for resource companies to offset the cost of constructing housing

Should you require further assistance in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (07) 4992 9500.

Yours sincerely

Ray Geraghty
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER