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**From:** Aldred, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2012 5:06 PM  
**To:** Committee, RA (REPS)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Supplementary Dept Resources Energy and Tourism FW: Proof Transcript - 29 February 2012 - Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 120413 RET comments - Proof transcript (hearing 29Feb12).pdf

Dear Secretariat to the Standing Committee on Regional Australia

As discussed with Siobhan last week, thank you for the additional time to respond with RET's comments on the proof transcript.

Please find attached annotations (scanned from a hard copy, as discussed) which correct a few typos, department names and acronyms. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like clarification on any of these comments.

In regard to the Committee's specific questions:

Examples of three-way discussions between mining companies, community and government/s

On page 2 paragraph 4, the Chair asked RET for examples of problems that were identified and solved through tripartite arrangements (i.e. the three-way conversation between companies, government/s and communities - as described by Ms Constable and Mr Stamford at the hearing).

The Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program Handbook on Community Engagement and Development that RET provided to the Committee at the hearing on 29 February 2012 provides several case studies of mining companies engaging with communities and various levels of government, to address a range of issues of concern to local communities (in particular the case studies on pp33-43). Further case studies involving discussion and negotiation between industry, government/s and communities are included in the 'Working with Indigenous Communities' and 'A Guide to Leading Practice Sustainable Development in Mining' handbooks (the LPSD handbooks are available from [http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/resources\\_programs/lpsdpmining/handbooks/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/resources_programs/lpsdpmining/handbooks/Pages/default.aspx)).

RET is involved in the Working in Partnership (WiP) program - as mentioned at the hearing - which facilitates three-way discussion between mining companies, Indigenous communities and government/s. RET is also involved in the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA)-Australian Government MoU on Indigenous Employment and Enterprise Development, which is an example of the Australian Government and corporate Australia working with Indigenous communities, to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. The Tourism area within RET also works with Indigenous communities and industry, to deliver sustainable benefits to communities.

Employment figures

On page 4 paragraph 4, the Acting Chair asked RET whether the ABS employment figures for the mining sector, include contractors (as well as direct employees), and also whether the figures include the construction phase (as well as the operational phase of mining).

The ABS advises that contractors are included in the employment figures, which are based on data from the ABS's Labour Force Survey <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6291.0.55.003> refer table 4 (for details of questionnaire/methodology refer [Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey, 2004](#)).

However, the workforce for the construction phase of mining projects and related infrastructure would be identified as being in the 'construction sector'. Whether a company is coded as being in the 'mining' or 'construction' sector, is based on responses to the following two questions:

66. What kind of business or service is carried out by ...(employer at the place where....works / business)?

67. What is the name of .....(employer / business)?

From the responses to these questions, the Industry is coded with the Computer Assisted Coding system according to strictly prescribed rules. It is often sufficient to refer only to the industry information recorded from question 66. However, at times the Industry name is also required.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proof transcript and to respond to the Committee's questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards

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