



From: Phil Evans
Sent: Wednesday, 5 October 2011 10:35 PM
To: Committee, Reps (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into the impact of Fly-In, Fly-Out strategies by Mining Companies on Regional Australia

This is a Submission to :-
The Committee into the impact of Fly-In/ Fly-Out strategies by Mining Companies on Regional Australia

Mr Tony Windsor
Chair
Standing Committee on Regional Australia
House of Representatives
PO. Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

5th October 2011

Inquiry into the use of fly in, fly out workforce practices on Regional Australia.

Dear Mr Windsor,

Western Tasmanian communities welcome your inquiry into the FIFO/ DIDO workforce practices that are decimating our regional towns.

My family have continued to operate retail businesses in Queenstown, Tasmania since 1898, (114 years, 4 Generations). The current FIFO, DIDO practises place our business in serious jeopardy to continue beyond the the next financial year. Continuing decline in our customer base mainly due to the transient workforce practises of todays mining culture.

Our towns were built to support the mining industry in this region, we are now dying on the vine as 70% of mine workers choose to drive in drive out to fulfil their working rosters on a 7 day on 7 day off basis.

Isolated towns like Queenstown will continue to struggle to attract permanent residents and their families while the 12 hour shift rosters remain the norm in the mining industry.

As a business operator and resident at the coalface of a mining community, I notice the increased pressure this FIFO/DIDO culture has placed on families,communities and small business sustainability.

Today one of my elderly customers passed away alone in her home, her son and his family had been enticed to the mainland by the big money offered by a FIFO mining company. Family stability is under serious threat, thanks to these difficult work practises and the lure of bigger dollars.

. The rapid growth of FIFO/DIDO practices has decimated this community and created enormous negative economic and social impact for the region.

. Foreign ownership of our mines leads to the mining companies supporting their overseas communities while virtually ignoring the regions where their wealth is generated.

. Services and infrastructure suffer enormously as the rate base for our Local Government body declines. The rising costs for essential services also contribute to workers relocating their families to larger regional centres where facilities are better and more cost effective.

. Our towns are now mostly welfare dependant or cheap housing alternatives for retired couples looking for a tree change. The pool for quality employees needed by other businesses is now at a critical stage, this is due to the movement of families we once considered stable residents that supported our community networks and local economy.

. The need to diversify our economy should be encouraged and addressed by our government regional and economic development agencies .

Opportunities exist in this region for Mining Workforce Training and Development. Natural Resource Management initiatives should be adopted in long established mining communities to provide alternatives for these single industry towns.

. The need for quality housing is something that needs to be addressed. Mine management personnel are now joining the queue of the DIDO workforce, they seek quality housing as part of the package when considering relocation to our mining towns.

. Their is a belief that the trend of FIFO/ DIDO is is here to stay, so be it, the answers to community sustainability lies with the people who choose to reside in remote mining towns. Ongoing consultation is wearing them down, and the social fabric of our society is in rapid decline as government stutters along doing bugger all. Take a common sense approach to support our initiatives and we will showcase the solutions that will soften the damage FIFO practices have created and ensure a stable future for our children who we hope are encouraged to work and reside in regional Australia.

Yours Sincerely

Philip Evans

Managing Director

Charles Evans & Sons P/L est: 1898

