



Northern Australia Committee to discuss tax issues around FIFO with Treasury & ATO

FIFO (fly-in, fly-out) work practices have been an important part of the development of the resources sector in Australia for many years. They have become increasingly controversial, however, with many people concerned that the increasing reliance on transient workers in remote areas is undermining the development of regional and remote communities, especially in Northern Australia. Without a permanent resident workforce, small towns become less viable, businesses close and services move to larger centres.

A major concern is the tax treatment of FIFO—whether Zone Tax Offset arrangements and Fringe Benefits Tax concessions and other tax arrangements are privileging FIFO over resident workers.

As part of its inquiry into the development of Northern Australia, the Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee will hold a public hearing in Canberra on **Tuesday 15 July**, to discuss taxation issues surrounding FIFO with representatives of the Treasury and the Australian Taxation Office. The hearing will be held at **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House**, from 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

Committee Chair, the Hon Warren Entsch MP, stated: "The Northern Australia Committee has visited a range of communities across Northern Australia and a consistent concern is the increasing prevalence of FIFO and the impact that is having on the sustainability of small communities. There is a need to bring the focus of development in Northern Australia back to growing the population, creating sustainable communities with access to the full range of services—education, health, leisure and cultural facilities. We need people to live in the North not just work there. While the benefits of FIFO work arrangements are clear in the development of some resources projects, FIFO needs to be the exception not the rule."

PUBLIC HEARINGS—Canberra, 15 July 2014

WHERE: Committee Room 2R1, Parliamentary House, Canberra

WHEN: Tuesday 15 July, 6.00pm–7.30pm

For media comment: Please contact Heather Beck, Media Adviser to the Committee Chair the Hon. Warren Entsch MP on (02) 6277 4803 or 0427 585 668

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:
Phone: (02) 6277 4162 Email: jscna@aph.gov.au Website www.aph.gov.au/jscna