



Sc

29<sup>th</sup> September 2011

O'Connor House  
Unit 3, 58 Egan Street, Kalgoorlie WA 6430  
PO Box 10259, Kalgoorlie WA 6433  
Telephone: (08) 9021 2466  
Facsimile: (08) 9021 1402  
Email: [chamber@kalgoorliecci.asn.au](mailto:chamber@kalgoorliecci.asn.au)  
Web: [www.kalgoorliecci.asn.au](http://www.kalgoorliecci.asn.au)  
ABN 71 074 547 969

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

Dear Sir

**Re: FIFO Workforce Enquiry**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the FIFO/DIDO Enquiry. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc holds the view that FIFO, in certain instances, is the only option companies have to economically carry out mining in isolated locations.

FIFO has become a habit for many mining companies and major contractors. They do not consider other options that contribute to the communities within the immediate proximity of their current or prospective operations.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has invested heavily in this City with the support of State and Federal Governments to make it a better place to live, work and play. This commitment has been enthusiastically supported by the Chamber and our wider community.

There is little doubt that FIFO will ultimately destroy the social fabric of this community. It is already noticeable that sporting groups and other community organisations are shrinking as employment trends change.

The challenge for Australia's regional communities linked to the resource sector is to find a degree of balance.

There are some things that are commercially driven that Government cannot influence and we accept that. However, we would like to make the following points:-

- The Federal Government could consider a review of Fringe Benefits Tax which is heavily weighted in favour of FIFO.
- There are little or no home ownership incentives for people who may consider living in regional Australia. Rental subsidies suit property investors but not home owners.
- The Chamber would encourage the Federal Government to consider reviewing regional zone allowances for those who make the commitment to live and work in regional Australia.
- Those who choose to invest in regional Australia by developing sustainable enterprises could be encouraged to do so with tax driven incentives to attract prospective business development in the regions.
- The City of Perth has recently been given regional status. When assessing traditional Australian regional change, it would be unrealistic to include Perth in that comparison.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is Australia's only remaining regional City basically reliant on the resource sector that has survived and prospered during its 118 year history. This community has the capacity to provide an invaluable real life perspective of FIFO and DIDO. Given the capacity of this City's wider community to provide invaluable information on the Standing Committee's deliberations, the Chamber recommends a visit to Kalgoorlie to the Committee.

On behalf of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce & Industry, we thank you for this opportunity to comment on the FIFO Workforce Enquiry and recommend a visit to Kalgoorlie-Boulder by you as a sound investment in the overall process.

Regards

**Hugh Gallagher**  
Chief Executive Officer