



Ref No 10.85.1/33

04 October 2011

The Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Regional Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Sir/Madam

Re : *Parliamentary Inquiry into the use of fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) and drive-in, drive-out (DIDO) workforce practices in regional Australia*

The District Council of Grant is the most southern local government area in South Australia. Situated on the South East coast it is bounded to the south and west by the Southern Ocean, the Victorian Border to the east and the Wattle Range Council to the north. The Council encircles the local government area of the City of Mount Gambier. The Council is predominantly rural with a number of small townships, serves a population of 7,597 and covers an area of 188,493 hectares. The area contains some of the richest and most productive agricultural land in South Australia. Dairying, beef, and sheep production, wool, seed and grain production and horticulture are the predominant agricultural activities. The Port MacDonnell fishing industry, in particular the rock lobster industry, is a significant factor in the economy of the area. Forestry production and related secondary industries of logging, milling and production of paper are major economic and employment generating activities.



That Mount Gambier and surrounding areas have builders and tradesmen who are availing themselves of the opportunity for fly-in, fly-out to other Regions particularly associated with the mining sector. The Lower South East is experiencing a lack of business confidence and an economic downturn as a result of many factors. The ability for engineering and building companies to avail themselves of work outside the region to shield their businesses from such economic downturn is beneficial. The workers return to Mount Gambier to be with their families and spend their wages within the City.

The District Council of Grant is supportive of the opportunity for fly-in, fly-out, workers to other regions to provide additional opportunities for work that benefits not only the company but the worker and the City from which they are based.

It is suggested that the inquiry take into account the economic benefits to businesses and workers that are able to avail themselves of these opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Russell J Peate
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER