

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia

Submission by



Australian Government

**Department of Regional Australia,
Regional Development and
Local Government**

November 2011

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia: Inquiry into the use 'fly-in, fly-out' and 'drive-in, drive-out' workforce practices in regional Australia

Introduction

This submission has been prepared by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department) to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia Inquiry into the use of 'fly-in, fly-out' (FIFO) and 'drive-in, drive-out' (DIDO) workforce practices in regional Australia.

The aim of this submission is to provide the Standing Committee with an understanding of the Department's role and how it relates to FIFO/DIDO workforce practices in regional Australia. Additionally, this submission provides a summation of regional perspectives on FIFO/DIDO workforce practices, including the various opportunities and challenges that FIFO/DIDO workforce practices can provide for regional Australia.

This submission therefore provides insights from the perspectives of the Office of Northern Australia and the National Disaster Recovery Taskforce. It also includes the views expressed by the Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees.

Summary

The use of FIFO/DIDO workforce practices is growing and becoming a common form of employment in regional Australia. FIFO/DIDO workforce practices are often used in regional Australia when regions are unable to provide suitably skilled workers that are needed by specific industries. This is particularly the case in relation to the current mining boom where some regional communities are unable to service the skilled workforce demands.

The use of FIFO/DIDO workforce practices provides a number of benefits and challenges for regional Australia, some of which are outlined in this submission. While these practices are predominantly associated with the mining industry, they do occur in a number of other sectors such as health, although to a lesser extent.

The impacts of FIFO/DIDO workforce practices vary across regional Australia and can depend upon whether the region is a supplier of FIFO/DIDO employees or is 'in demand' of a sufficiently skilled workforce. There are a number of benefits for regional Australia of these practices, including:

- that FIFO/DIDO practices are crucial to many industries achieving full productivity, which if not continued would have implications for regional communities. For example, some mining projects in Western Australia have up to 47 per cent¹ of all mining employees on a FIFO basis;
- providing significant benefits to FIFO/DIDO workers, particularly in relation to remuneration, as evidence shows that 27.2 per cent² of employees in the mining sector had a gross individual weekly income of \$2,000 or more. This is considerably above the national average of 5.6 per cent; and
- bringing economic opportunities for regional communities.

There are also some challenges for regional Australia of FIFO/DIDO workforce practices, including:

- creating housing shortages;
- communities near a mine that may not have the infrastructure capacity to support an increase in population that a FIFO/DIDO workforce creates;

¹ The Chamber of Minerals and Energy, Western Australia

² 2006 Census of Population and Housing

- the Department is aware that mining companies in Australia are working with government to address these issues in a number of regions. The Pilbara Cities initiative in Western Australia is a State, Commonwealth and local government investment working with the private sector on key delivery initiatives including health, energy, water, housing, community development, etcetera;
- FIFO/DIDO employees not spending in the communities where they work so the economic benefits of their earnings do not flow-on to the community;
- placing strain on services in nearby townships, as these services do not have the capacity to cope with the increase in use of essential services, i.e. emergency services that FIFO/DIDO workers require;
 - however, it is important to note that mining companies have provided funding for services in communities. For example, in Laverton in WA, several of the mining companies contribute toward the cost of a doctor for the local hospital;
- FIFO/DIDO workforce practices raise the issue of the use of a local workforce versus a FIFO/DIDO workforce (particularly in relation to Indigenous communities);
 - The Department understands that some mining companies working in regions give employment preference to local residents, and are particularly committed to providing training and employment opportunities for Indigenous people.
- ‘skills’ drain making it difficult to retain local workers for local jobs; and
- impacts on families, including health and other impacts, which may contribute to social isolation and family breakdown.

Overview of the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

The Department was formally created on 14 September 2010, reflective of the Government’s renewed focus on regional Australia. The Department’s purpose is to improve the well-being of Australians by strengthening the sustainability of regions including territories and communities, through strong local partnerships, influential policy leadership, and effective service and program delivery.

The Department works to ensure that the Government has a coordinated approach to take into account the needs and priorities of regional Australia in the development of Government policies and programs. The Department is developing robust regional information and evidence base for Government to make informed decisions for regional Australia and to be able to report on the pattern of Commonwealth investment and effort in the regions.

The Department’s responsibilities include:

- providing financial payments to local government and managing a number of infrastructure grants programs;
- engaging and partnering with 565 local governments and 55 Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees to better understand what works in regional Australia;
- working across the Commonwealth and with the states and territories to ensure that regions are heard and strive for the best policy and program responses, particularly in supporting regions through change;
- partnering with all stakeholders to ensure that strategies are integrated while seeking to avoid duplication of effort;
- ensuring value-for-money expenditure of the \$6.6 billion Commonwealth funds to assist the Queensland and Victoria governments in their recovery and reconstruction efforts in the wake of the 2010 –11 natural disasters; and
- maintaining and improving the legislative and financial frameworks for Australia’s self-governing territories and delivering state equivalent services to the non-self governing territories.

The Office of Northern Australia

The Office of Northern Australia (ONA) in the Department focuses on the sustainable economic development of northern Australia, and brokers solutions to improve coordination between governments, business and communities across the north.

The key roles for ONA include:

1. Awareness and advocacy - building consensus among stakeholders and communities on opportunities and challenges to the sustainable economic development in northern Australia, and being an informed advocate for northern Australia, and for the interests of the Australian Government in northern Australia
2. Alignment - fostering an environment where national, state, territory and community interests may be aligned through effective dialogue and collaboration
3. Joint action - establishing robust cooperative arrangements that facilitate collaborative approaches to achieving sustainable economic growth in northern Australia.

In December 2010 the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum was established by Minister Crean to address the need for stronger leadership and collaboration across northern Australia. The Forum is chaired by the Minister and includes all the Ministers responsible for regional development in northern Australia: the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy MLA, Northern Territory Minister for Regional Development; the Hon Tim Mulherin MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries, Rural and Regional Queensland; and the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Western Australian Minister for Regional Development.

Since it was established, the Ministerial Forum has proved to be an effective vehicle for the four jurisdictions to collaborate on a range of initiatives relevant to the sustainable development of the north. The Forum has initially focused on the following key areas:

- infrastructure investment priorities;
- sustaining growth in the northern beef industry;
- indigenous employment and skills;
- water and energy;
- opportunities to improve service delivery; and
- deepening community engagement.

Of particular relevance to the inquiry into FIFO workforce practices, the Commonwealth and northern governments are working with industry to identify infrastructure investment priorities for northern Australia and develop a forward looking, joint-government approach to the planning and development of place-based investments across the north. This will shortly include an assessment of the potential impacts of resource and other sector growth on the need for investment in education and skills training, labour and labour supply issues, social and community infrastructure, and Indigenous employment and development opportunities.

Territories

The Federal Government, through the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government administers the Territories of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Coral Sea Islands, Jervis Bay, and Norfolk Island. Case study 1 provides detail on the Indian Ocean Territories.

Case Study 1: Indian Ocean Territories

The Indian Ocean Territories, which comprise the non-self-governing territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, are impacted by FIFO workforce practices.

On Christmas Island, the industries that use FIFO workforce practices include: immigration detention services, mining, tourism, construction and other government services. There are approximately 1400 permanent residents living on Christmas Island, and currently 450 Immigration Detention Centre workers, and 750 immigration detainees (September 2011).

The use of FIFO workforce practices has provided a number of opportunities for Christmas Island residents, including:

- Increased opportunities for local small and medium business;
- Improvements in infrastructure ; and
- More money in the economy.

However, some of the challenges reported by the Indian Ocean territories include:

- Housing shortages and increased rents;
- Limited engagement by FIFO workers in the local community;
- Increased costs of food;
- Environmental and infrastructure impacts;
- Increased use of local services, e.g. longer waiting times to see doctors, dentists and social workers; and
- Decrease in tourism numbers due to accommodation and flights being used by FIFO workers.

Local Government

There are 565 local governing bodies across Australia.

The Australian Government, through the Department, contributes to the prosperity of the economy and the wellbeing of all Australians by assisting local governments to manage their own futures, including providing essential services and developing effective planning initiatives.

Key bodies, such as the Australian Local Government Association and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government, have identified a range of views on the impact for local government on FIFO/DIDO work practices:

- The presence of a FIFO/DIDO workforce has implications for local government infrastructure, land use and urban planning, as well as provision of essential and community services
 - Increased town water use linked to significant increases in population, for example, can be a significant issue for local government in areas where water resources are scarce.
- Planning for provision of services, infrastructure, housing etc can also be a difficult balancing act, in order to provide adequate services for a temporary population, without overinvesting, given the shifting nature of the population in areas with a FIFO/DIDO workforce
 - Difficulties in accurately measuring a non-permanent/transient population (e.g. via the Census) can also impact on the ability of local government to effectively plan for required services and infrastructure.

- Areas with a significant number of residents working away from home on FIFO/DIDO arrangements appear to experience impacts for their communities and for their associated local government area
- Where there is a shortage of (and hence increased competition for) workers, local governments can find recruitment and retention of staff difficult, with subsequent impacts on local service provision.

There are also opportunities and potential upsides for local governments as a result of FIFO/DIDO:

- The increased services and local infrastructure which may accompany FIFO/DIDO workforces can open up other development opportunities for local government. For example, opportunities linked to increased air services to an area and improved airports
- FIFO/DIDO work practices also help to avoid the local government concern of investing in potentially redundant infrastructure.

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) is currently working with program partner Edith Cowan University in undertaking some initial scoping work on the impacts of FIFO work practices on local communities and regional development. This initial work involves analysing public submissions made to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia enquiry, consulting with local government peak bodies as well as with some individual local councils. This initial scoping may result in further work on this issue by ACELG and its program partners.

National Disaster Recovery Taskforce

The National Disaster Recovery Taskforce was established in the Department to provide strategic direction and oversight of the Commonwealth recovery effort in Queensland and Victoria.

Flooding and tropical cyclones in Eastern Australia between November 2010 and April 2011 caused unprecedented damage to housing, public infrastructure and crops. Queensland was particularly affected with 100 per cent of the State disaster declared. Damage to public infrastructure in Queensland is estimated at \$6.8 billion.

On 19 January 2011, the Premier announced the establishment of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to manage the task of rebuilding and repairing infrastructure in more than 60 flood and cyclone affected communities across Queensland. In her ministerial media statement the Premier identified that the recovery from the disasters would require large-scale repair and rebuilding activities resulting in a significant increase in demand for labour in some regional areas. The Premier also stated that the scale of reconstruction work was expected to add to pre-disaster skill shortages in Queensland in vocations such as engineering, project management, supervising foremen and plant operators.

Disaster reconstruction labour requirements

The demand for labour for disaster reconstruction work in Queensland is likely to add to existing and projected demand caused by mining and resource projects, both in that State and throughout Australia. The "Resources for Reconstruction" report released by QRA on 24 September 2011 identifies the human resources required for reconstruction activities in Queensland following the 2010-2011 floods and Cyclone Yasi disaster impacts. The QRA report anticipates that reconstruction works will peak in 2011-12, before gradually diminishing in 2012-13 with some remaining reconstruction works finalised in 2013-14.

The QRA has identified skill shortages in regions such as Mackay, Gladstone and Emerald where unemployment rates were low prior to the 2010-11 disaster events. However, QRA has reported that some spare capacity exists within the Queensland labour market to meet short-term

reconstruction needs, which is attributed to a range of factors including the downsizing of businesses as a result of the global financial crisis. In the “Resources for Reconstruction” report QRA reports that unemployment rates range from 4.1 per cent in Townsville to 8.6 per cent in Cairns, with rates for participation in employment also highly variable.

QRA has determined that the bulk of projects in the resource sector are scheduled for 2014 to 2016, but has identified ‘early works’ comprising civil construction for port, mine and rail developments which are scheduled for 2013. The majority of demand for labour in resources projects occurs in the construction phase and may compete directly for skilled civil construction labour needed for reconstruction projects. This increased demand will likely have flow-on effects throughout Australia as labour is sourced through FIFO/DIDO arrangements.

Anecdotal evidence also suggests there is an increased demand for workers in social services and health in some regional areas to assist communities recover from the recent disasters. The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have provided additional funding for mental health support, community recovery and case workers to support disaster recovery.

Emergency responders to natural disasters

During a disaster and in its immediate aftermath, emergency workers are often deployed to regional areas. They may include State emergency management personnel, police and fire services, SES volunteers and Australian Defence Force personnel. As these workers are only active for a short period of time and are fully supported by the State or Federal Government, they have a negligible long term impact on the communities in which they are stationed.

Reduced availability of housing supply in disaster affected areas

Accommodation shortages may exist in some areas following a disaster, particularly where there has been significant and widespread damage to housing stock. Shortages may be exacerbated by increased demand from FIFO/DIDO workers coming into an area to assist with reconstruction projects.

Local industry impacts

Following a disaster, local businesses and farms often experience a short-term decrease in demand for labour as their business is being rebuilt and commercial operations such as the harvesting of crops is disrupted. However, it is important to maintain a labour supply in affected areas to ensure workers are available to local businesses and farms once recovery has commenced.

The Commonwealth has introduced a number of measures to assist local businesses, primary producers and not for profit organisations maintain their workers during recovery from Tropical Cyclone Yasi. Specifically, wage assistance is provided to employers to assist in retaining workers during the recovery period and reduce the number of workers leaving a disaster affected area to seek alternative employment. Wage assistance supplants the Disaster Income Recovery Subsidy, which is available to any person that has lost their income as a result of the disaster.

The Commonwealth has also provided a range of support measures to assist businesses recover. Clean-up and recovery grants provide short to medium term support for businesses and primary producers to assist with repairing damage and cleaning-up debris caused by a disaster. Concessional loans and grants provide longer term support to assist businesses return to normal operation.

A Rural Resilience Package was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to provide \$20 million for business and community support activities including farm clean-up, financial counselling and industry grants. The Commonwealth has also provided a jobs and skills

package to mitigate job losses, support the retention of skilled workers in disaster affected communities and address emergent skills shortages.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees

RDA committees are an Australian Government initiative that brings together all levels of government to support the growth and development of regional Australia. RDA is delivered through a national network of 55 committees which build partnerships between governments, regional development organisations, local businesses, community groups and key regional stakeholders to provide strategic and targeted responses to social, economic and environmental issues affecting regional Australia.

Each committee comprises local leaders with broad and diverse skills and experience. Committee members are individuals who understand the challenges, opportunities and priorities within their region.

Most RDA committees indicated that their regions were impacted by both FIFO and DIDO workforce practices.

RDA committees reported that there were a range of industries that used FIFO and DIDO workforces including local government councils, construction, agriculture, health services, utilities and the public service. Mining and mining service industries were the most frequently mentioned in RDA committees' responses.

RDA committees' input highlighted the lack of data from which committees or any other researcher could draw reliable, time series and comprehensive information on FIFO/DIDO. It was indicated that such information would build the evidence base of the impacts of FIFO/DIDO workforce practices and also provide input to policy makers on this increasingly important issue.

Generally, the RDA committees noted that FIFO workforces are continuing to grow. For example, Goldfield-Esperance RDA reported that the workforce peak in the Goldfields-Esperance region is likely to occur in 2013, with a total of 16,300 minerals and energy workers in the region (approximately 2,400 above 2009 workforce). Whilst 55 per cent of new workers in the Goldfields-Esperance region are likely to be residents, 45 per cent of new workers will be non-resident (FIFO) (this information was supplied by the WA Chamber of Minerals & Energy and is only pertinent to workers employed directly by mining companies. It does not take into account contracting companies who use FIFO workers to fulfil their contractual obligations to those mining companies).

Our analysis suggests that the communities currently, and potentially, affected by FIFO and DIDO fall into two main categories:

- 'In demand communities' - which are communities that are unable to provide a sufficiently skilled workforce in a sector or sectors where there is a need. Identified areas where skill shortages occur that can require a FIFO workforce include: local government councils, construction, agriculture, health services, utilities, public service and mining and mining service industries.
- Supplier communities - these are communities that supply FIFO/DIDO employees to demand communities. Supplier communities are the preferred principle residence for FIFO/DIDO employees, such as coastal areas and larger cities. Supplier communities can also be regions with narrow economic bases that have faced economic downturn, or an oversupply of labour.

Opportunities and challenges for in demand communities

RDA committees identified a range of potential opportunities and challenges on demand communities from the use of FIFO/DIDO workforce practices.

Opportunities for in demand communities included an increase in local business due to the provision of services to FIFO workers and mining camps. Also, there are examples of mining companies contributing towards the cost of services. For example, in Laverton in WA, several of the mining companies contribute toward the cost of a doctor for the local hospital (FIFO workers use the services of the doctor).

The challenges identified from in demand communities can generally be categorised into three areas:

- Economic
- Social
- Infrastructure.

The economic challenges of FIFO/DIDO (as provided by RDA committees) include:

- Decreases in housing affordability and availability for communities and can force displacement of low-income workers in regions.
 - In 2009, the *AHURI Research and Policy, Bulletin Issue 120: Housing affordability and shortages in resource boom towns* noted that the average rental price for a three-bedroom house in the mining town of Karratha WA was \$1,500 per week (or \$78,000 per annum). However, it was noted that some mines provide accommodation for FIFO/DIDO workers, which can ease the pressure on the housing sector.
- Housing shortages which create a lack of choice for willing buyers
- Inability to attract new staff.
 - For example, RDA Darling Downs and South West indicated that FIFO/DIDO is having a major impact on community wellbeing because any industry not directly related to resource development (e.g. Councils, local shops, schools, police and other government services) is unable to attract staff for the wages that are normally paid by that sector unless they already live in the towns concerned.
 - It is simply not possible for these businesses to compensate staff sufficiently through salary for the higher rents that mining demand has driven and therefore new staff cannot afford to relocate to towns to accept positions.
 - There are record levels of vacancies that are not able to be filled by businesses and services not related to the resource development sector throughout the region and some small businesses have already closed due to inability to attract staff. Councils appear unable to compete with salaries offered to professional technical staff (e.g. engineers) and are struggling to fill these vacancies in particular.
- Lack of housing also affects tourism and business clients choice and supply
- Increasing cost of living expenses
- Skills shortages
- Regions not benefitting from the increased economic activity.
 - Far North RDA provided insight into this in their region as follows: “the majority of FIFO employees do not spend locally in these communities and refer to them as a ‘dormitory’, somewhere they sleep in between shifts.”

The infrastructure challenges of FIFO/DIDO (as provided by RDA committees) include:

- Lack of access to and increased prices of flights due to the demand of FIFO passengers, as well as the increased demand on local infrastructure such as rail and roads.
- Increased demands on health, education, community, emergency and social services which are not being met with extra resources.

It is important to note that mining companies in Australia are working with government to address these issues in a number of regions. An example of this is in the Pilbara, which has experienced a record population growth along with higher costs of living placing extreme pressure on services and infrastructure in the region. The Pilbara Cities initiative in Western Australia is a State, Commonwealth and local government investment working with the private sector on key delivery initiatives for health, energy, water, housing and community development supporting industry diversification, Indigenous participation, cultural enhancement and infrastructure development.

The social challenges of FIFO/DIDO (as provided by RDA committees) include:

- Less involvement in social, volunteering and sporting activities.
- A reduction in social capital and longer-term loss of community.
- Road safety issues associated with shift-workers driving after long shifts.
- Lack of choice of creating a workplace with 100% FIFO workers, especially if there is a transition from a residential workforce to a FIFO workforce.
 - For example, in Kambalda, Western Australia, mining companies switched from using a residential workforce to using FIFO workers. This caused a decrease in numbers of students at the town's two primary schools, a 50% vacancy rate in rental accommodation, and a negative impact on retailers and other service providers in the town.
- Lack of transition planning for communities and the negative impacts on housing prices and business when a mine closes.
- Case Study 2 provides information relating to the implications for Andamooka in South Australia.

Case Study 2: Andamooka – information provided by RDA Far North

Andamooka in South Australia, an opal mining town with less than 500 residents, is located approximately 30km from Roxby Downs and Olympic Dam mine (BHP Billiton) and is significantly impacted by FIFO and DIDO. BHP Billiton provides purpose built accommodation for its FIFO/DIDO employees, however, the company employs a number of contractors and accommodation for these contractors is not generally provided by BHP Billiton, leaving contractors to find other accommodation options. Andamooka is seen as a more affordable option initially with lower rental prices, available accommodation, and more affordable and available land for housing development than nearby town Roxby Downs.

The increase in FIFO/DIDO employees utilising Andamooka as a more affordable option has put pressure on the town's infrastructure, services and accommodation supply. This has resulted in a demand driven price hike in properties, decreasing housing affordability for those not employed in the mines plus uncontrolled development adding to pressures on water and electricity supply.

Essential services such as health and emergency services are also impacted upon with increased demand leaving the local community experiencing longer waiting periods and limited access to services. FIFO workers utilise infrastructure and services provided by the community but do not always invest their time or dollars back into the community.

Opportunities and challenges for supplier communities

The information provided by RDA committees indicated that the impacts on supplier communities generally provided economic opportunities for the community. However there were examples of social challenges such as skill and housing shortages.

The opportunities for supplier communities from the use of a FIFO workforce include:

- Economic opportunities to increase earning capacity for individuals and families.
 - The Australian Bureau of Statistics *2006 Census* data indicated that 27.2 per cent of employees in the mining sector had a gross individual weekly income of \$2,000 or more. This is considerably above the national average of 5.6 per cent.
- FIFO/DIDO workforces provided individuals with more employment options.
 - RDA Far North in SA noted that there are also benefits to the local economy and the future sustainability of regional communities, through access to other employment opportunities. For example, a number of pastoralists gain employment in the resources sector in slower times on the property and to sustain the business income in difficult years i.e. drought.
- Access to FIFO employment opportunities allows younger people in regional communities to find meaningful employment, which often ensures they stay within their communities.
- Stronger regional economies and future sustainability through people investing in their community via spending their money locally and having the affordability to build a home and raise their family in their local environment.

Some regions have identified themselves as capable of meeting a FIFO/DIDO workforce. For example, Geraldton in Western Australia and Wide Bay Burnett in Queensland are marketing their regions as potential 'homes' for FIFO/DIDO workers. Case study 3 provides detail of Wide Bay Burnett, which already supplies FIFO/DIDO workers but also sees the opportunity to expand their FIFO/DIDO workforce.

Supplier communities experience challenges from the use of a FIFO workforce, which include:

- 'Skills' drain making it difficult to retain local workers for local jobs.
- Impacts on families, including health and other impacts, which may contribute to social isolation and family breakdown.

Case Study 3: RDA Wide Way Burnett - Queensland

RDA Wide Bay Burnett (WBB) is located at the centre of the Surat, Bowen and Galilee Basins, and less than two hours' drive from Gladstone.

Key figures of the WBB region:

- The *Wide Bay Burnett Resource Sector Opportunity Study 2011* reports that WBB currently has the highest unemployment rate in Australia at 11.2 per cent;
- The workforce participation rate for the WBB region at August 2011 stood at 53.1 per cent (3 month average to August figures). Significantly the WBB region is the only labour force region in Queensland to have a participation rate under 60 per cent; and
- According to the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, 50.6 per cent of the population of the WBB region were in the most disadvantaged quintile compared with the 20 per cent of the population across Queensland.

Some 3,000 people in WBB are employed directly or indirectly in the mining sector. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 of these workers are employed outside the region through FIFO/DIDO arrangements.

Wide Bay Burnett Resource Sector Opportunity Study 2011 highlights that due to WBB's housing affordability and availability, infrastructure as well as its regions provision of services (social and business), the WBB can absorb significant growth and manage the potential community impact. The benefits from the economic contribution made by the increase in FIFO/DIDO workers will strengthen the community by addressing the disproportionately high level of disadvantage.

Based on current figures in the *Wide Bay Burnett Resource Sector Opportunity Study 2011*, the engagement in the resource sector of 1,000 of the WBB's currently unemployed workforce, plus a further 3,000 new workers who may be attracted to the region, would result in a direct economic stimulus of approximately \$2 billion per annum for the local economy.

Information on the RDA committees who inputted into this submission

In preparing this submission, we asked the 55 RDA committees to provide information on FIFO/DIDO workforce practices affecting their regions (Attachment B is the questionnaire provided to RDA committees for input and Attachment C provides information on where responses were received).

Of the 28 responses received, 19 regions indicated that they were impacted by FIFO/DIDO workforce practices). The responses we received covered all states and territories excluding the Australian Capital Territory. The RDA committee’s responses broken down by state/territory are:

State/Territory	Number of RDA committees	Responses
Australian Capital Territory	1	0
New South Wales	14	5
Northern Territory	1	1*
Queensland	12	10^
South Australia	8	2
Tasmania	1	1
Victoria	9	3
Western Australia	9	6
TOTAL	55	28

* NT: The response received from Northern Territory was from Litchfield Shire Council.

^ QLD: Two responses were related to the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

Questionnaire provided to RDA committees

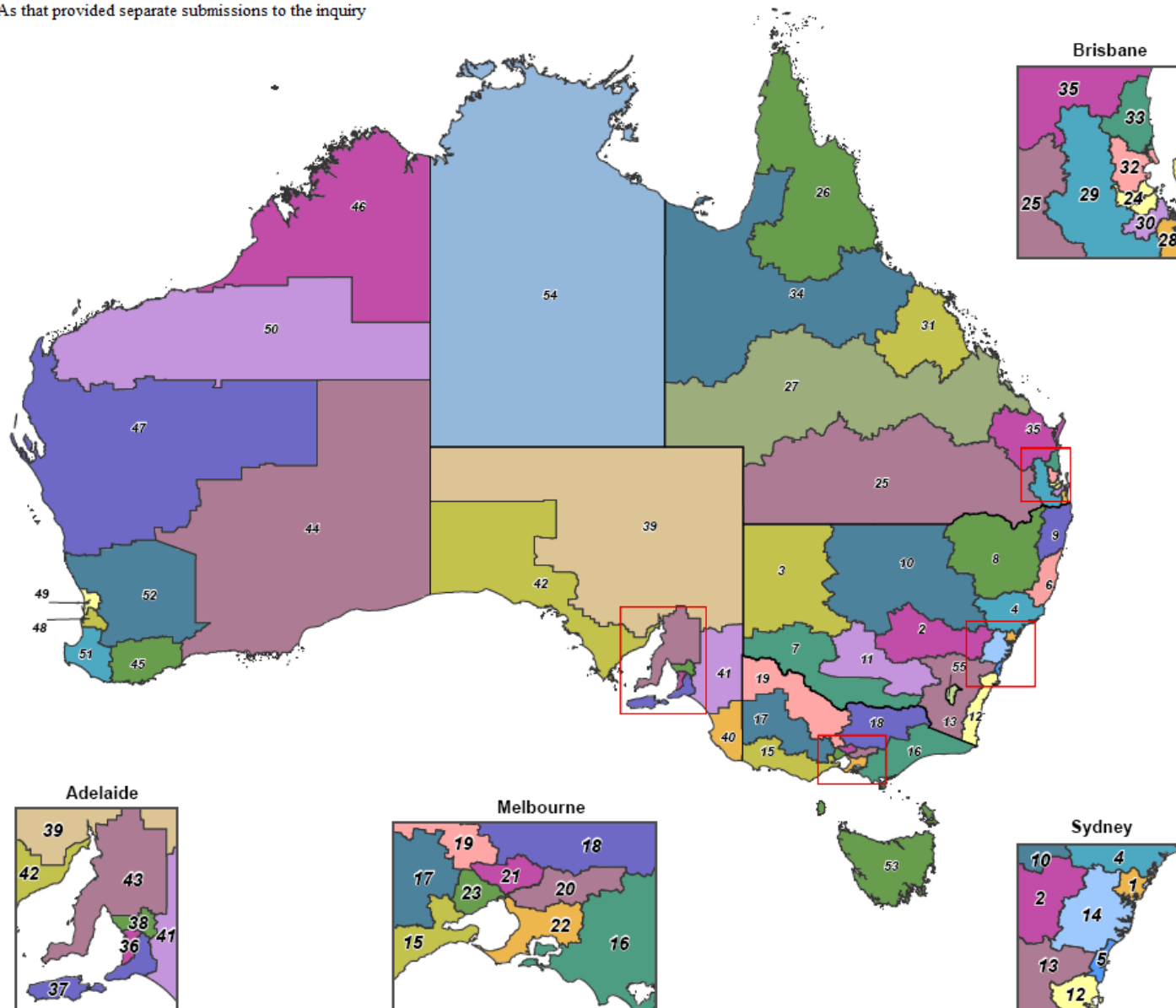
RDA Questionnaire – How does fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) and drive-in, drive-out (DIDO) workforce affect your region?	
<p>The purpose of this questionnaire is to gain an understanding of the impact on your region, if any, of FIFO / DIDO. The Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government will use this information to prepare a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia’s <i>Inquiry into the use of FIFO and DIDO workforce practices in regional Australia.</i></p>	
1	<p>Does FIFO/DIDO impact your region? (If not, please email back a Nil response. Otherwise please proceed to question 2.)</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2	<p>Is FIFO or DIDO more prevalent in your region, or do both impact?</p> <p>FIFO <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>DIDO <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Both <input type="checkbox"/></p>
3	<p>What townships and industries (e.g. mining) utilise FIFO/DIDO in your region?</p>
<p> </p>	
4	<p>Are FIFO/DIDO practices well established in your region? What is the expected growth? (Please attach relevant data or information.)</p>
<p> </p>	
5	<p>What are the positive and negative impacts of FIFO/DIDO on your region?</p>
<p> </p>	
6	<p>Does FIFO/DIDO impact upon the provision of services, infrastructure and housing availability in your region? Are there impacts on community wellbeing?</p>
<p> </p>	
7	<p>Does your region supply workers via FIFO/DIDO? What are the impacts of this on the region?</p>
<p> </p>	
8	<p>Any further comments?</p>
<p> </p>	

RDA:	
Name:	
Contact Details:	
Date:	

2011 Regional Development Australia (RDA) Boundaries

* - RDAs that contributed to this submission

^ - RDAs that provided separate submissions to the inquiry



- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| New South Wales | Victoria |
| 1 Central Coast | 15 Barwon South West |
| 2 Central West | 16 Gippsland |
| * 3 Far West | 17 Grampians |
| 4 Hunter | 18 Hume |
| * 5 Illawarra | * 19 Loddon Mallee |
| 6 Mid North Coast | * 20 Melbourne East |
| 7 Murray | * 21 Northern Melbourne |
| * 8 Northern Inland | * 22 Southern Melbourne |
| 9 Northern Rivers | * 23 Western Melbourne |
| 10 Orana | |
| 11 Riverina | |
| 12 South Coast | |
| * 13 Southern Inland | |
| * 14 Sydney | |
| Queensland | |
| * 24 Brisbane City | |
| ^ * 25 Darling Downs and South West | |
| * 26 Far North Queensland and Torres Strait | |
| * 27 Fitzroy and Central West | |
| ^ 28 Gold Coast | |
| * 29 Ipswich and West Moreton | |
| * 30 Logan and Redlands | |
| * 31 Mackay/Whitsunday | |
| * 32 Moreton Bay | |
| 33 Sunshine Coast | |
| * 34 Townsville and North West | |
| * 35 Wide Bay Burnett | |
| South Australia | |
| 36 Adelaide Metropolitan | |
| 37 Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island | |
| * 38 Barossa | |
| ^ * 39 Far North | |
| * 40 Limestone Coast | |
| ^ 41 Murraylands and Riverland | |
| 42 Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula | |
| 43 Yorke and Mid North | |
| Western Australia | |
| * 44 Goldfields Esperance | |
| * 45 Great Southern | |
| * 46 Kimberley | |
| ^ * 47 Mid West Gascoyne | |
| * 48 Peel | |
| * 49 Perth | |
| ^ 50 Pilbara | |
| * 51 South West | |
| * 52 Wheatbelt | |
| Tasmania | |
| * 53 Tasmania | |
| Northern Territory | |
| 54 Northern Territory | |
| Australian Capital Territory | |
| 55 Australian Capital Territory | |