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Dear Committee Members,

In 1983/84 when Argyle Diamonds commenced diamond mining near Kununurra WA a meeting was held in Darwin at the Don Hotel in Mitchell Street to form

an industrial award to determine the wages and conditions. A proposal was put forward by the W.A. Government led by Brian Burke for a fly in fly out operation

in lieu of building a township for the miners and their families. The deal as I understood it at the time was the the WA Government was to receive \$32,000,000

worth of shares in the company. The Unions negotiated an extra 50 cents an hour in wages.

This arrangement became the Standard as mining companies were keen to lower costs as it was cheaper for them to fly-in and fly-out than maintain townships.

The result over the years is the winding down of mining towns and the development of single mens / womens camps with wet messes etc.

As a former Miner who enjoyed the benefits of bringing up my Family in mining towns I think it deplorable that such a situation has been allowed to develop.

The whole mess was developed based on the greed of the Government.

The \$32,000,000 paid to the WA Government was subsequently lost in the transactions

which have become known as WA Inc!

I hope this sheds some light on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Bill McMahon

7/10/11