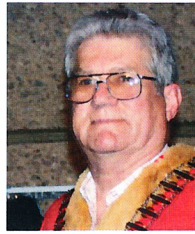


From the Office of the Mayor

John M J Molony



Siobhan Leyne
The Secretary of the Committee
House Standing Committee on Regional Australia

10.01.2012

Submission Number: 159
Date Received: 10/1/2012

A small box containing the handwritten initials "SL".

Dear Siobhan /

Please find following my submission on FIFO/DIDO.

SITUATION The North West Mineral Province in Queensland centered around Mount Isa is one of the great stable mining communities in Australia. The city and XSTRATA Mine are nearly 90 years old and whilst the XSTRATA Mines draw most of their labor from the local community, they tend to FIFO/DIDO that labor component which is not available locally. There are also 300 apprentices at XSTRATA at any given time, so a great effort is made to train people locally for the future workforce.

FIFO/DIDO is a major tool of the Mining industry to combat lack of available labor in new and existing project areas. To get a new mine or project off the ground usually requires a larger workforce than when the business becomes operational. Once the business becomes operational it stabilizes, the activities are operational and the homely environment of a normal community takes place.

FIFO/DIDO continuing after this phase destabilizes the community and puts weight on social infrastructure without contribution to its upkeep. This could be countered at the Mine approval stage when the State Government is in a position to condition a mine with building a number of houses in the nearest township, where some of its operational workforce will be housed and a contribution thus made to the housing infrastructure of the local community. The number of houses to be built in order to contribute to local community housing stock could be determined as a certain percentage of the projected operational workforce. These houses subsequently built as a License to Mine Condition would not be lost to the mine as they would be used to house some of the mine personnel, and would be a lasting contribution to the township and community.

TRADES & LENGTH OF APPRENTICESHIPS. I believe that in South America there are two year apprenticeships for Diesel Fitters and these are so good they are recognized as 5 star by Hastings Deering. Now this is good stuff and if these sorts of apprenticeships could be offered to local young people it could build the skill set locally to defeat FIFO/DIDO.

A Mount Isa City Council submission is in the process of being made and will be in your hands in the near future. My submission is the personal view of the Mayor of Mount Isa.

Yours faithfully,

Mayor John M.J. Molony
Mount Isa City Council