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**From:** Alison Southern  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 March 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** Committee, RA (REPS)  
**Subject:** Submission on FIFO/DIDO

Submission to the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Simon Crean MP, regarding his inquiry into *the use 'fly-in, fly-out' (FIFO) and 'drive-in, drive-out' (DIDO) workforce practices in Regional Australia.*

**My submission refers to the following terms of reference:**

- the effect of a non-resident FIFO/DIDO workforce on established communities, including community wellbeing, services and infrastructure;
- the impact on communities sending large numbers of FIFO/DIDO workers to mine sites;

I have been a resident of Broome since 1982, a small business owner (10 staff) since 1995 and a property owner. My children were raised in Broome and I have extensive knowledge of this town, its services and social and cultural structure. I helped grow many local community developments over this time.

I am concerned about the likely devastating effects of FIFO and DIDO in this gorgeous town which is historically and culturally unique, beautiful, attractive and interesting. Having witnessed the demise of Pilbara towns such as Port Hedland and Karratha, due largely to the influence of FIFO in those places, I am adamant that these practices must not be introduced here in Broome. I have witnessed the gradual falling away of community cohesion as workers take their time, energy, love and money out of FIFO towns. These become dead places, devoid of voluntary services, small businesses, restaurants, arts & crafts, music, clubs, community spirit or country helpfulness. Without the families supporting them, the women and children, they become unbalanced hotbeds of rampant dysfunctional testosterone, alcohol, drugs, prostitution, violence and associated crime.

I know that most of the long term residents of Broome are totally opposed to FIFO, DIDO or even heavy industry in this town. Witness the gathering of 8000 people (half our population) on the beach last year of Broome families in support of Broome and in opposition to the WA government's plans. Should the gas hub come to JPP, including FIFO/DIDO practices, I personally know many who intend to leave. Our own family will uproot and leave, in grief for a lost town and all our years helping build the fabric of this town.

I urge you to pay close attention to the mounting evidence that these practices are no good for Australian towns.

Yours faithfully

Alison Southern