

Kevin Ryan

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The Chairman

House Standing Committee on Regional Australia

**Inquiry into the use 'fly-in, fly-out' (FIFO) workforce practices across  
Regional Australia**

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Above House Standing Committee Subject – Encourage the employment of local mature-age Australian citizens and permanent residence.

I am a permanent resident of Gladstone (65 years of age) which is about to be inundated by massive (\$65billion) LNG and coal export development and expansion projects. Requiring an influx of approx. 8000 – 15000 number of temporary construction employees, into the (town) metropolitan area; to construct such facilities, consisting of construction accommodation camps being constructed on Curtis Island and regional centres such Benaraby and Calliope to facilitate such projects.

The announcement of such projects has generated much publicity into the anticipated inadequacy of the provision of facilities and services within the present of Gladstone to accommodate such a massive influx of increase of population into the area. The effect of such a large population increase on the permanent residence is to increase the cost of services and facilities. Such massive impact on the area could be moderated by the employment of mature-aged local residence to maintain the local industrial wealth within the local area.

Currently the benefit to the city is based on compensation and social community benefits instead of encouraging self-reliance and personal acquiring of skills. These corporate donations mealy substitute for the shortfall in initiatives and responsibilities of Commonwealth, State (who spend most of taxpayer finance within the more populated South-East Qld corner – to the discuss of the Qld regions) and Local Government (who have had the majority of State Government reimbursements for the upkeep of community infrastructure diminished) – in favour of the more populated South-East State Corner. The ever expanding and "bloated" Queensland State Government administration staff (which takes 33% of all funding allocated towards state infrastructure). Equally Queensland Local Government has inherited the massive cost of State Government amalgamation policy; including massive State Government legislated administration regulation and impositions.

Regional councils such as the Rockhampton Regional Council is pursuing between \$500mill – 3bill from State and Federal Governments to provide flood proof permanent traffic (road, rail and air) from Brisbane to Cairns; together with lack of funding towards the Bruce Highway – Gympie to Cairns. Members of Parliament will be fully aware of the “unease” of the population in this region at the billions of dollars of State and Federal government taxes and royalties being “channelled” towards massive costs and administrative waste in Brisbane (and South East Region) and Canberra (and other wasteful policies on the Federal Budget).

Yours Faithfully

Kevin Ryan