



Thursday, 27 October 2011

Mr Tony Windsor MP  
Chair  
House Standing Committee on Regional Australia  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Windsor

**Re: House Standing Committee on Regional Australia**

Connecting Southern Gold Coast Ltd ("CSGC") is a controlled entity of the Gold Coast City Council and is charged with promoting economic development and tourism on the Southern Gold Coast ("SGC"). The SGC encompasses the region from Currumbin in the north, to Coolangatta in the south (9 kilometres in length.)

We are funded by a special rates levy on SGC businesses.

CSGC is governed by an independent Board of local business people with public-company experience in mining, corporate services, tertiary education, freight forwarding and environmental management.

Chairman of our Board is Mr Murray d'Almeida, who is also Deputy Chair of Business Gold Coast Advisory Board, the Gold Coast City Council's economic development forum.

The SGC hosts the Gold Coast Airport, Southern Cross University (located in the Airport precinct), John Flynn Private Hospital, the Currumbin Clinic (private hospital), and the Currumbin Waters Industrial Estate.

Our region offers some of the best residential living in Australia, from surfside units and houses, to suburban residential, to hinterland valley and mountain living.

Whilst our population is small compared to that of the overall Gold Coast City, unfortunately we have unemployment rates in excess of 11%, which makes us nearly double that of the wider City. In addition, we are a cross-border region, with the Tweed Shire of NSW being our immediate neighbour: it, too, has significant unemployment rates.

Consequently, I am writing to you on behalf of our business community in support of Mentor's submission to the House Standing Committee on Regional Australia inquiry into the use of 'fly in fly out' (FIFO) workforce practices in regional Australia.

We have worked closely with Mentors and Gold Coast City Council officers and our local business community to engender considerable interest in FIFO coming to the SGC region.

We all see FIFO offering our region wonderful opportunities to diversify our community on both a social and economic basis. We believe that mining employees taking up residence on the SGC will provide the following positives for investment and employment in our region:

- Justify Mentors new investment in FIFO facilities, adding to regional employment;
- Attract increased tourist visitations from the family and friends of mining employees;
- Offer opportunities for mining conferences and forums; and
- Encourage new mining support industries across a wide spectrum, to locate at Currumbin Waters Industrial Estate and elsewhere in our region.

As such, we wholeheartedly commend the Mentor's proposal to you.

Yours faithfully

Jim Wilson  
General Manager