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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 March 2012 7:05 PM  
**To:** Committee, RA (REPS)  
**Subject:** Submission to the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government - inquiry into FIFO  
**Attachments:** Kimberley economics report 12-4-11- FINAL.doc

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;

To the Hon Simon Crean MP,

The Broome Community has been recently listed on National Heritage List (NHL) for its pearling history and in layback Broome time lifestyle. This will need to be taken into consideration when a change of regional lifestyle such as FIFO is introduced.

While mining is the biggest contributor to the Kimberley's 'gross regional product', a briefing paper (attached) by ACF shows the mining industry is the eleventh largest employer in the region, providing only 500 jobs.

Mining in the Kimberley is controlled almost entirely by national and international companies, so the profits don't stay in the region and the workforce is largely fly-in fly-out workers, not local employees.

In fact, mining is a much less important employer in the Kimberley than retail trade, accommodation and food – industries that will grow further as more people visit the Kimberley to experience the region's outstanding natural and cultural values.

In contrast to the money made from mining and FIFO, which mostly leaves the region to generate wealth elsewhere, retail trade and tourism generate local wealth.

Yours faithfully

Wade Freeman  
Kimberley Project officer  
Australian Conservation Foundation

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**Wade Freeman**  
Kimberley Project Officer  
**Australian Conservation Foundation**

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