



Andrew F. Hobday

**HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

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

Dear Committee,

Due to the late nature of this submission, I will be brief.

- \* If the Australian and state governments were serious about Australia's regional, northern, and strategic development, FIFO operations into regional centres would be actively discouraged.
- \* FIFO is the antithesis of regional and strategic development, and also decentralisation away from capital cities.
- \* The federal government should develop policies encouraging growth in regional centres by attracting populations into those centres. FIFO does not do this.
- \* State governments need to cease rationing land availability in centres that demand clearly outstrips supply. High residential costs are used as an excuse to justify FIFO.
- \* FIFO operations are self-contained and need no public infrastructure. This impedes much needed strategic requirements of Australia's northern development.
- \* FIFO into remote resource projects is not a problem. However, in the interest of regional development, staff for these projects should be sourced from existing closer regional centres.

A.F. Hobday 06/10/2011