



Hon Jeff Seeney MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: MC14/1781
NL140514

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

30 MAY 2014

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear ~~Mr Laurie~~

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2014, about petition 2231-14 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly, about fly in fly out (FIFO) and drive in drive out (DIDO) employment practices in the Queensland resources sector.

The Queensland Government is aware of the concerns raised by local communities and has developed a policy framework to respond, in a balanced manner, to the needs of local communities and the resources sector.

FIFO and DIDO employment are legitimate workforce participation strategies that provide flexible employment options for some employees and employers. In many circumstances, FIFO and DIDO employment strategies may be the best way to alleviate pressure on services and infrastructure in local communities, which would otherwise be subject to rapid population fluctuations from mine developments. Many employees in the resources sector choose to work under FIFO or DIDO arrangements, where it suits their lifestyle. Workers recruited from outside resource communities may, for a number of reasons, prefer to retain their home base and commute long distances for work purposes.

FIFO or DIDO arrangements are also very important in spreading the benefits of the resource sector broadly across the community. For example, providing employment opportunities in socio economically disadvantaged areas, which are serving as regional FIFO hubs.

The petition also requests rejection of the Red Hill proposal in its current form. The Red Hill project is currently preparing additional information to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Terms of Reference requires a comprehensive assessment of employment strategies, and assessment of the costs and benefits for the local community from a range of workforce participation options. Through this process, the proponent demonstrates that the proposed employment strategy delivers the best possible outcome for regional communities from the project. The Coordinator-General will use this information and the results of consultation in undertaking an assessment of the project.

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While the cyclical nature of the resources sector creates challenges for regional communities, the government is committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders gain the maximum employment opportunities and economic benefits from the state's mineral and petroleum resources.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Seeney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JEFF SEENEY MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning