



MEDIA RELEASE

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

FIRST EVER STUDIES REVEALS THE TRUE FACTS BEHIND FIFO

Statement from Gavin Lind, Director - Education and Training, Minerals Council of Australia

Less than a quarter of Australia's Fly in Fly Out (FIFO) and Drive in Drive Out (DIDO) workforce is directly employed in the mining industry, the first ever study of long distance commuting has revealed.

Despite claims that FIFO and DIDO is a "cancer" in Australia, a study of the 2011 Census by KPMG shows that only 2.1 per cent of the national workforce Long Distance Commutes (LDC) to work. Miners represent 21 per cent of the total LDC workforce.

The KPMG study for the Minerals Council of Australia, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association and SkillsDMC, shows that more people LDC to Australia's capital cities than to work in Australia's nine mining regions.

A total of 64,056 people LDC to Australia's capitals compared with 55,962 to the nine sampled mining regions. 44,610 people identified as mining industry employees.

Overall, the KPMG study shows that at the time of the 2011 Census, 213,773 Australians were long distance commuting.

This overall total includes more than 28,000 construction workers, about 14,000 public servants, more than 15,000* manufacturing industry employees, 13,000* healthcare workers and more than 12,000 people engaged in scientific research, architecture, engineering, IT, veterinary science and other professional services.

Other key findings include:

- 25 per cent of the total mining industry workforce was long distance commuting at the 2011 Census, just three percentage points higher than in 2006.
- KPMG estimates that 100,000 workers directly employed in mining operations and in industries allied to the resources sector LDC to work.
- Sydney is Australia's largest LDC destination followed by the Pilbara, the Bowen Basin, Melbourne and regional** New South Wales.
- Perth is the largest feeder location (place of usual residence) for LDC workers followed by regional QLD, regional NSW, Sydney and Melbourne.
- The proportion of workers engaged in LDC work practices increased by just 0.4 percentage points to 2.1 per cent in the five years to 2011.

The mining regions examined were the Pilbara, Central-West (WA), Surat Basin, North West QLD, the Hunter Valley, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Central SA, the Galilee Basin and the Bowen Basin.

In a federal parliamentary report on FIFO released last month, independent MP Tony Windsor – who long distance commutes to work in Canberra - concurred with the Mayor of Kalgoorlie that FIFO was a "cancer".

What is clear is that while the use of FIFO/DIDO for mine operations has increased – as the total number of people employed in the sector has similarly increased – long distance commuting for operational staff is the exception rather than the rule in the resources industry.

The mining regions examined were the Pilbara, Central-West (WA), Surat Basin, North West QLD, the Hunter Valley, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Central SA, the Galilee Basin and the Bowen Basin.

The report is available at www.minerals.org.au. Key data tables are on page two.

DIDO is a car commute in excess of 100 kilometres * this is MCA-generated data based on the Census study undertaken by KPMG. It does not appear in the KPMG report **regional areas (described as "balance regions" in the report) excludes mining regions, regional cities or provincial cities

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Top LDC destinations	Total LDC workers	Top LDC feeder cities/regions	Total LDC workers	LDC to nine main mining regions
Sydney	19,681	Perth	24,790	14,838
Pilbara	18,703	Regional QLD	18,685	7,285
Bowen Basin	16,544	Regional NSW	17,700	1,127
Melbourne	15,592	Sydney	16,510	1,287
Regional NSW	12,246	Melbourne	14,323	701
Regional QLD	12,061	Brisbane	13,420	3,994
Regional WA	9,825	Regional VIC	11,105	499
Brisbane	9,150	Regional WA	7,352	2,542
Regional Vic	7,728	Gold Coast-Tweed	7,136	1,435
Perth	7,366	Adelaide	6,834	1,515
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	6,206	Regional SA	5,971	1,488
Canberra	6,187	Newcastle	5,524	506

LDC from major provincial and regional centres

	Total LDC (all industries)	Total LDC to nine main mining regions
Gold Coast-Tweed	7,136	1,435
Newcastle	5,524	506
Sunshine Coast	4,122	1,194
Mackay	3,802	3,087
Townsville	3,683	1,868
Cairns	3,104	522
Mandurah	2,140	1,358
Rockhampton	2,009	1,520
Ballarat	1,895	42
Albury-Wodonga	1,866	39
Bendigo	1,756	45
Wollongong	1,603	145
Bunbury	1,448	624
Latrobe Valley	1,159	89
Bundaberg	1,140	490
Launceston	1,030	68
Burnie-Devonport	1,025	77
Hervey Bay	999	379
Geraldton	933	299
Geelong	793	83
Wagga Wagga	723	36
Gladstone	679	313
Mildura	522	33
Coffs Harbour	507	27
Port Macquarie	483	99
Dubbo	480	23
Orange	407	34
Bathurst	399	16
Tamworth	394	56
Nowra-Bomaderry	357	18
Shepparton	342	13
Warrnambool	274	14
Lismore	233	16

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