

# workers accommodation in the petroleum industry



EIANZ  
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# Outline

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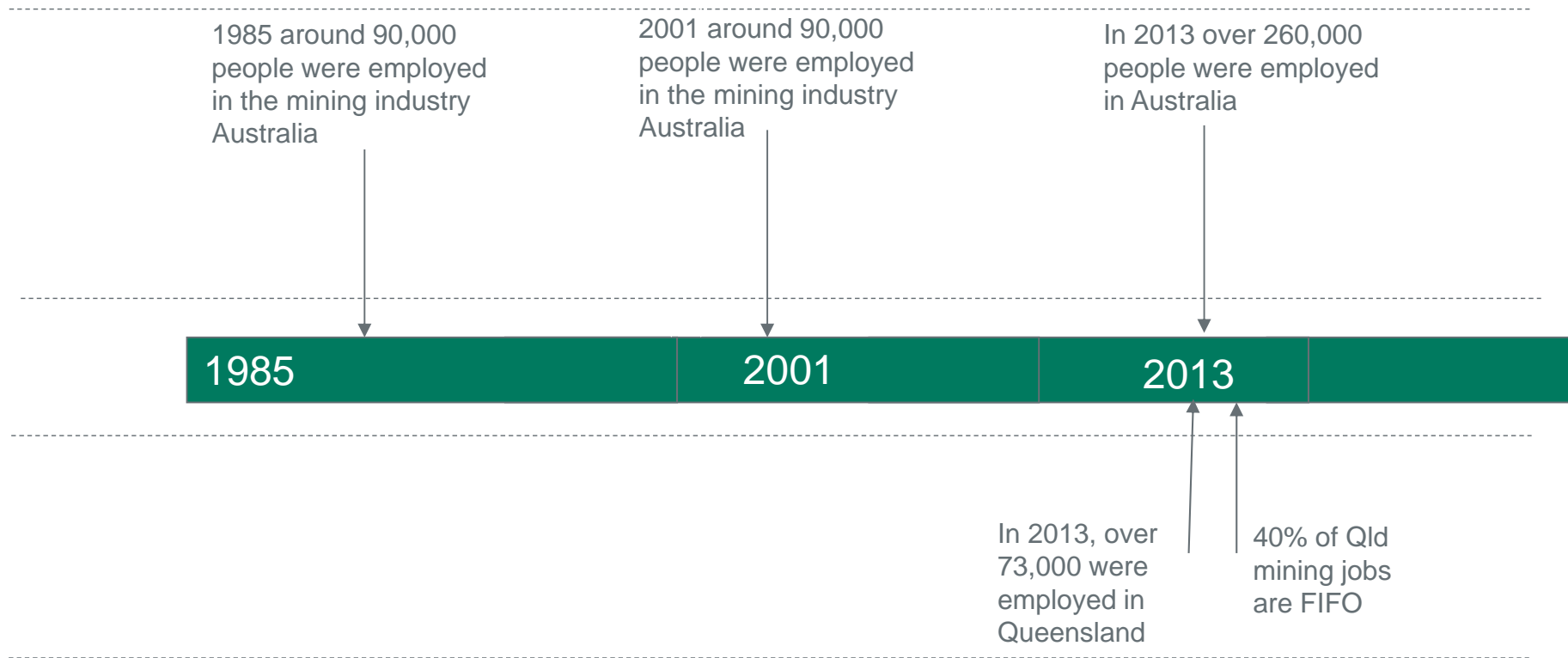
- Workers accommodation in Queensland
- Different types of workers accommodation
- Regulatory environment
- Council assessed workers accommodation
- Community concerns

# Workers accommodation in Queensland

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- What is workers accommodation?
- Where did it come from?
- In the early 1970's the Central Queensland region of Queensland was opened up for extensive open cut and underground mining of high quality coal reserves.
  - This led to the formation of Dysart and Moranbah.
- Majority of people in these towns are involved in the mining industry

# Timeline



# Temporary workers accommodation facilities

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- Do not have permanent infrastructure
- Generally for construction of infrastructure
- Different types and sizes
- From small and mobile to large
- Wells - The support camp
  - canteen facilities,
  - communications,
  - vehicle maintenance and parking areas,
  - fuel handling and storage areas, and
  - provision for the collection of wastes.
- The camp typically occupies 600m<sup>2</sup> of centrally located space away from the immediate area of the drilling rig to reduce the environmental footprint.
- Dismantled and rehabilitated after completion of use
- temporary on-site camps are set up for this purpose keeping the teams close to their work.
- For construction of pipelines, camps are generally located every 100km to reduce travel time of workers

# Regulatory Environment - Temporary

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On tenure –

- Petroleum Pipeline Licence, Petroleum Lease, Authority to Prospect
- Temporary Workers Accommodation is exempt from assessment against the Planning Scheme –
  - *Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Schedule 4 Regs)*
  - *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*
  - Still subject to any plumbing or building works applications
- Regulated by the *Environmental Protection Act 2004*
- Requires compliance with conditions of the relevant Environmental Authority
- Timeframe – QLD Development Code

# Regulatory Environment - Temporary

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- Regulated by the Sustainable Planning Act 2009
- Requires a Material Change of Use Development Application to Local government
- Likely to require referral to State Assessment and Referral Agency
- Code or Impact Assessable
- Decision Notice states when development must cease

# Temporary VS Temporary

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- Three camps along a 300 km rail line.
  - Requires council approval
- Three camps along a 300 km pipeline located on a Petroleum Pipeline Licence (PPL) area
  - Exempt and does not require assessment against the planning scheme



# Permanent workers accommodation facilities

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- When not deemed 'temporary'
- Large camps for operational workforce
- Generally located in close proximity to towns
- Not necessarily catering one company (almost like a large motel)
- MAC Villages

# Brief Overview

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- 10-hour shifts
- A 9pm curfew
- Military-style regulations
- Rule book runs to 16 pages
- Care-flight helicopter base
- A doctor, nurses and physio
- Up to 20 different trades and professions
- No dogs, no girlfriend sleepovers

# Regulatory Environment

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- Permanent Workers Accommodation requires an application to the local government, however if the project has a Coordinator-General's report for the EIS there are a number of exemptions in accordance with the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*:
  - Not subject to public notification
  - No referral to SARA
  - No information request stage
  - Application go straight to Decision Stage

# Regulatory Environment

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- Regulated by the Sustainable Planning Act 2009
- Requires a Material Change of Use Development Application to Local government
- Likely to require referral to State Assessment and Referral Agency
- Generally Impact Assessable
  - Not consistent with the planning scheme
  - Subject to public notification
- Development Assessment takes approximately 12 months to reach decision
- Local Governments are generally not supportive of these developments

# Regulatory Environment

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An application to council generally requires:

- Compliance with the desired environmental outcomes
- Provision of technical assessments
  - Traffic impact assessment
  - Stormwater management plan
  - Rehabilitation plan
  - Environmental Assessment
  - Civil engineering and earthworks
  - Economic impact assessment
  - Environmentally Relevant Activities
    - Sewage treatment
    - Chemical storage

# Community Concerns

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- Unaffordable for many service and small businesses to operate
- Safety
- Puts significant pressure on services and infrastructure in host communities (Dysart)
- Increased presence of alcohol, drugs, prostitution, gambling
- Increased numbers of fatigue-related injuries and accidents

# Regulatory Environment - Other

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- Licence for a Food Handling Facility - Food Act 2006
  - Any facility that handles and serves fresh food at camp sites requires approval
- Authority of an industrial canteen licence - Liquor Act 1992
  - Licensed trading premises for limited sale of alcohol at mine camp site
- Trade Waste Approval Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008
  - Trade waste trap installation and disposal of kitchen and associated waste into reticulated sewage / waste system
- Special Fire Approvals - Building Act 1975; Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990; Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008

# Regulatory Environment - Other

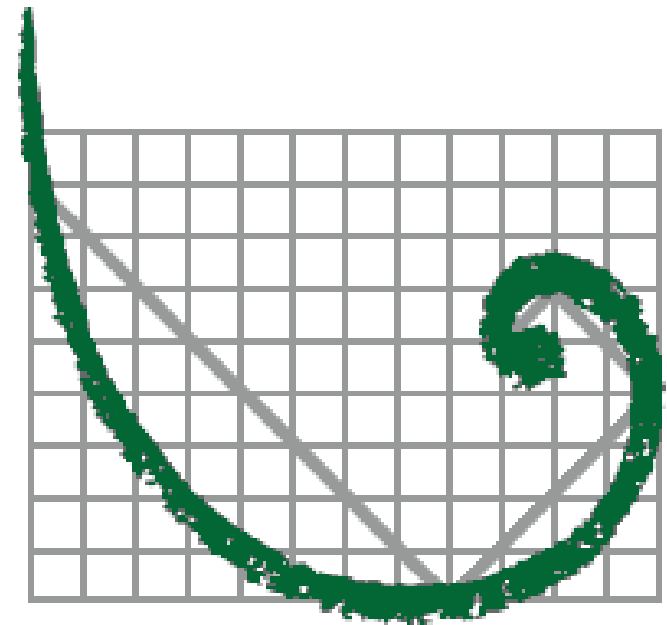
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Plumbing and Drainage Act 2004 - The installation of water and sewage works for the temporary construction camps and facilities will require compliance assessment under the Act



# Thank you

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# ERM