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McGowan needs to get a grip on best-practice FIFO

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The McGowan Government is all at sea when it comes to a unified position on fly-in, fly-out practices.

In the past month, Labor MP Kyle McGinn has accused resource companies of “destroying lives” by relying on FIFO.

Mr McGinn went as far as labelling some rosters employed by these companies “disgusting”, saying FIFO had been normalised due to a lack of action. Contrast

Mr McGinn’s position to the Premier’s dogged determination to have a new 600-bed FIFO camp built just minutes from Karratha’s city centre.

In fact, under Labor, more than 1200 new FIFO beds will be brought on in Karratha and Dampier alone.

Mr McGinn need look no further than his own party room to see the root of the problem.

I agree with him that long-term FIFO rosters need to be made a thing of the past, yet it seems Mr McGinn has failed to convince the

Premier. It’s time for Labor to get serious about transitioning industries away from fly-in, fly-out and shifting towards residential workforces.

The Nationals in government used Royalties for Regions to build infrastructure and improve services so our regional towns and centres became more liveable.

Research has found those doing FIFO are generally at higher risk of suicide, prone to burnout, more likely to drink and use drugs, as well as suffer from isolation, job

insecurity, lack of quality sleep and exposure to bullying.

It is incumbent on industry and the McGowan Government to make changes that improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

A good starting point would be adopting The Nationals WA’s policy of phasing out FIFO work camps from locations within 60km of existing towns and regional centres.

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Member for Mining and Pastoral