



## The Socio-economic Impacts of Long-distance Commuting on Source Communities

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**Project undertaken on behalf of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, the Arts and Sport**

### Project Overview

The current mining boom has brought considerable wealth throughout Australia, but the benefits are unevenly distributed. The majority of Australian mining activities are in remote locations where demand for labour usually exceeds local supply, requiring a long-distance commuting (LDC) workforce from source communities. There has been considerable interest in how LDC impacts on the host community (where a person works), and on workers and their families. Yet there has been limited focus on how LDC impacts on the source community.



This research examined the socio-economic implications of LDC on Mandurah and Busselton. They are distant from mining operations, but now home to significant and growing LDC populations.

The research assessed the socio-economic implications of LDC for resident communities and examined the extent and distribution of economic benefits flowing into the region from mining through local expenditure of LDC incomes, and, conversely, the demands on community infrastructure and services from an increased local LDC population.

### Outcomes

The findings provide a basis for major resource companies to work collaboratively with government agencies and source communities in regional Australia to maximize potential benefits from a LDC workforce and minimize pitfalls. Key findings include:

- Economic benefit flowing into source communities through LDC incomes is considerable, but is not being fully realised
- Growth pressures need to be managed through collaborative approaches
- Increasing reliance on LDC as a means to stay in economically depressed areas may increase longer term vulnerabilities

