

100% FIFO doesn't exist according to QRC



» SPEAKING OUT: QRC's Michael Roche at the CHDC Business Breakfast.

PHOTO: KELLY BUTTERWORTH

Roche speaks

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IF there was one thing to take away from the CHDC's business breakfast, it was that 100% FIFO doesn't exist.

Queensland Resource Council's director Michael Roche spoke at the business breakfast and made his views very clear.

"In terms of a non-resident workforce in the Bowen Basin... the non-resident workforce is down 35% from 2012," he said.

"Most of those are construction workers.

"I got to tell you, there is no such thing as a 100% fly in, fly out mine."

Mr Roche said the constant use of BMA's



Michael Roche

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Daunia and Caval Ridge mines as an example of the practice was not well informed.

"So Daunia and Caval Ridge, they can't operate without having the services of about 100 contractors that go onto those sites providing a whole range of services every month, in addition to the operational workforce that flies in from Cairns and south-east Queensland," he said.

A BMA spokesman echoed Mr Roche's views.

"It's important to understand that less than 10% of our total workforce of 10,000 people in Central Queensland are on FIFO commute arrangements," the spokesman said.

"The term 100% FIFO has been widely used but it is misleading in that what this refers to is only the operational proportion of the total employment at the site.

"Our records show that during February this year for instance, around 1000 visits to Caval Ridge and Daunia Mines were made by locally based employees of our contractors — providing essential ongoing local employment."