Mining and Community Assessment in Western Australia

Professor Fiona Haslam McKenzie
Curtin University Western Australia
### Social Impacts of mining in Western Australia

- Traditionally, social impacts have focused on contribution to the State economy and labour markets.
- Limited recognition of the impact at the local level:
  - Fly-over effect
  - Paternalistic corporate social responsibility spending
  - Sugar daddy syndrome
Recent Developments

- The BHP Billiton Ravensthorpe Nickel Mine closure
- Negative impact of FIFO on towns such as Port Hedland
- Development of green field mine sites in productive agricultural areas
- Concern that long term sustainability of communities compromised by mining (eg Tom Price)
Recent Developments

- Royalties for Regions
- Pilbara Industry’s Community Council
A new way of integrating mining into community

- Some new mines (for example, Newmont at Boddington) now paying local government rates rather than handing over buildings and other infrastructure
- Greater emphasis on local self-determination
- Integration of mining workforce into towns to enhance local expenditure
A new way of integrating mining into community

- Housing incentive program (Newmont)
- Establishment of community trusts
- FIFO not all bad

BUT .... We need the census to be collecting more accurate data for non-residential labour forces
• More information?
• Go to: www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/p80370/
• Contact Prof Fiona Haslam McKenzie 
  f.mckenzie@curtin.edu.au  08 9266 1087