



# Miners hit out over FIFO move

**DAMON GUPPY**

THE mining industry says the Federal Government is penalising some of Australia's most valuable toilers by scrapping special tax breaks for fly-in, fly-out workers.

The Zone Tax Offset is set to be abolished in June 2016 to save the Government \$325 million over three years.

FIFO workers in remote regions currently receive up to \$1173 under the scheme.

Australian Mines and Metals Association chief executive Steve Knott said the Government's decision was premature, given both the tax discussion paper and Queensland's FIFO inquiry were still reviewing the bonus.

"FIFO employees may be well remunerated, however they fulfil an essential and often challenging role in our national economy," Mr Knott said.

"Those of us working in air-conditioned CBD offices mustn't lose sight of the 12-hour days they often endure in far remote areas and while away from their families."

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Michael Roche was "disappointed" at the measure.

"We still expect to be properly consulted on the initiative before it's legislated," he said.

But Mr Roche said that the impact on FIFO miners would be limited.

"We're not talking about large amounts of money," Mr Roche said.