



3 February 2014

Geographic Labour Mobility  
Productivity Commission  
LB2 Collins St East  
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Commissioners

The Minerals Council of Australia endorses the key findings of the Productivity Commission's Draft Report into Geographic Labour Mobility.

We note in particular the following findings:

*8.1 - The main impediments to geographic labour mobility relate to personal factors, and in particular family circumstances. Attempts by government to act in contradiction to these factors are unlikely to be effective or improve community-wide wellbeing.*

*11.1 - Geographic labour mobility has been an important mechanism for adjusting to the demographic, structural and technological forces shaping the Australian economy. It has been assisted by the considerable flexibility shown by employers and employees in overcoming the effects of impediments to mobility. The increase in long-distance commuting and temporary immigration has been particularly important, and should not be impeded by excessive regulation.*

As outlined in our original submission, the Minerals Council of Australia agrees that geographic labour mobility should be viewed a positive element in a growing, dynamic Australian economy. As well as allocating labour resources efficiently across the economy, it has enabled the mining industry to locate the right skills at the right time, given the reluctance of many Australians to move permanently to remote areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

**Chris James**  
Assistant Director – Workforce Skills