



Social impact assessment and mining communities

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Outline of this talk

- Overview of Social impact assessment
- Changes in emphasis in Australia
- Application to Moranbah of some different ways of assessing social impacts
- Results of some recent research
- Developing a decision framework



Social Impact Assessment

- Identifying the impacts of new developments or operations on lifestyles and communities
- Includes:
 - Direct changes on people, such as higher rents and prices
 - Indirect changes, such as different services or changed population mix
 - Attitudinal changes, where people view issues differently

Forms of social impact assessment



- There are two main forms of social impact assessment
- The first simply involves an assessment of the impacts
 - Normally gained from a variety of interview and survey techniques
- The second involves some feedback loops with the population of interest
 - Reduces impacts by allowing people to have some input into the decision process for identifying and addressing impacts



Economic impact assessment

- Social impact assessment closely aligned with economic impact assessment
- Many economic impacts flow through to create social impacts
 - Increased employment brings more people
 - Increased income creates different spending and services
 - Higher prices and rents can create pressures on people



Impact Assessment with mining in Australia

- Focus has tended to be:
 - On assessment before development for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - On being descriptive rather than engagement
 - Companies have tended to run a separate community consultation and engagement process to the social impact assessment stages
 - Negotiation about impacts tends to be with local and state government rather than communities



Changes in emphasis

- Rapid growth in mining has led to a number of impacts on social factors for mining communities
 - Supply of services and social infrastructure has often not kept up with population changes
 - Higher housing and other prices has had major impact on people in communities without mining incomes
 - Increased use of drive-in/drive-out means that local communities becoming more dormitory towns rather than business centres



Moranbah case study

- Mining developments generated benefits
 - Increased employment
 - Increased income
 - Increased population
- Also some offsetting negatives
 - Higher costs
 - Strain on services and infrastructure



Some research directions

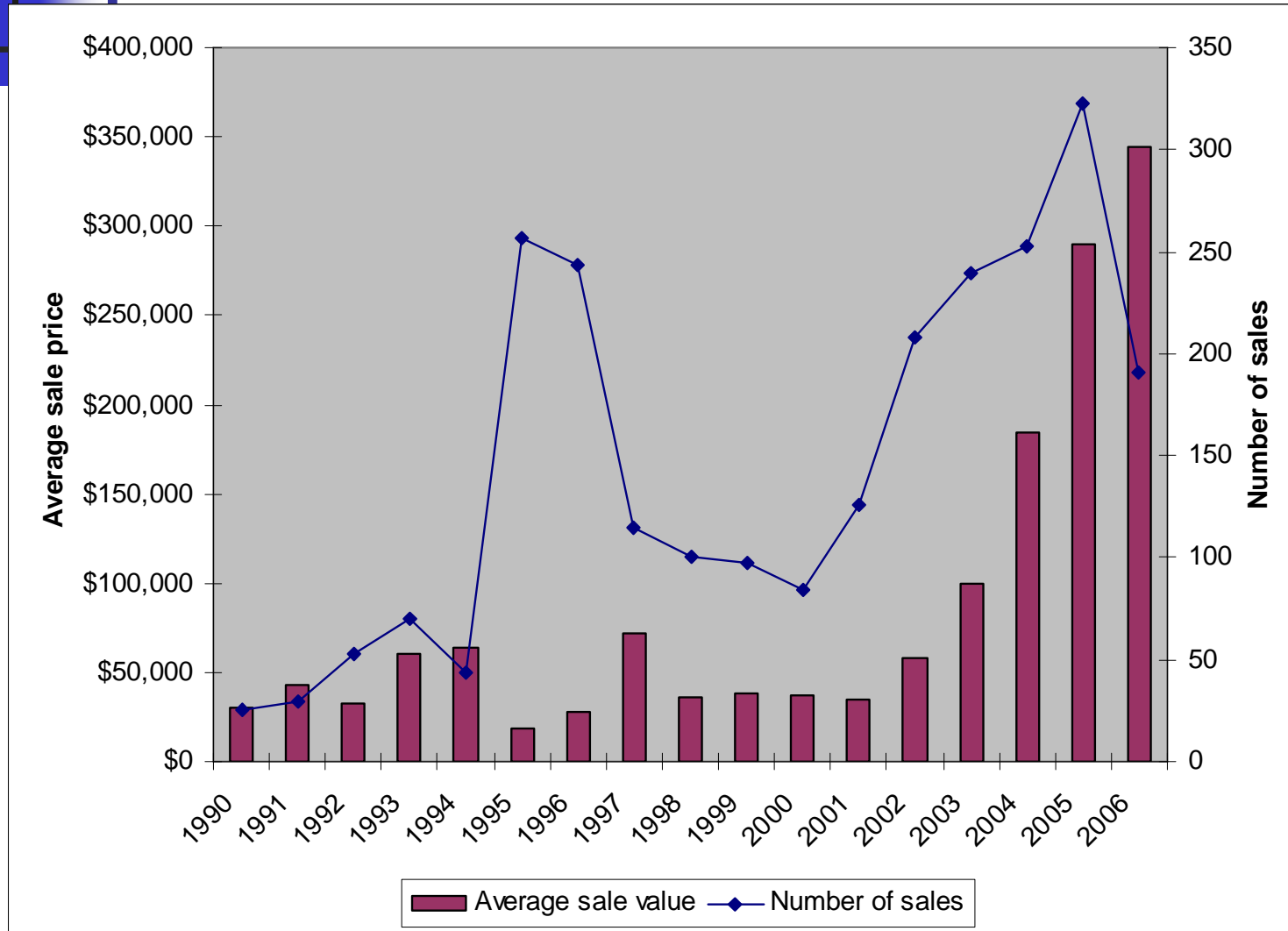
- CQU has been working to identify the impacts of new developments more accurately
 - And developing better ways of assessing social impacts
- Particular focus on
 - Housing and labour force impacts
 - Finding better ways to assess the impacts
- Research supported by
 - Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP)
- Some previous research supported by
 - Queensland Government
 - Mining industry



Types of research undertaken

- Desktop analysis
 - E.g. looking at available data on housing
- Interviews with community and stakeholders
 - Trying to identify the key issues of importance
- Surveys of mining employees
 - Understanding location and housing choices
- Surveys of households in Moranbah
 - Assessing key attitudinal, housing and location issues

Desktop study – housing prices in Moranbah





Issues from interviews with community and stakeholders

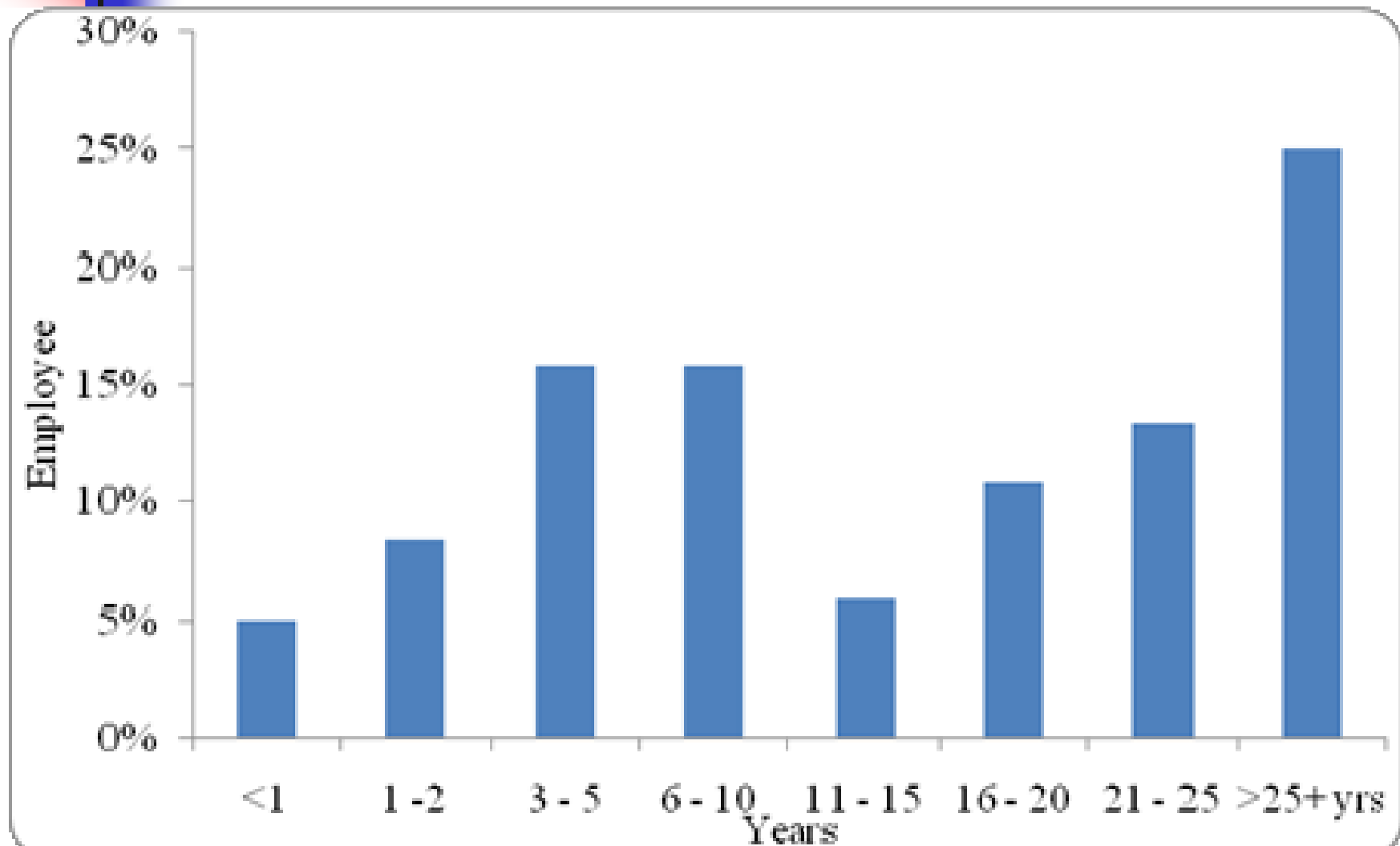
- Dramatic inflation in the cost of housing and accommodation.
- The separation of families
- Social isolation among workers living in camp accommodation
- Increased demand for counselling and other services
- Increases in alcohol/substance abuse and in family violence.
- Declining capacity of local health, retail and other services to cope with demand.
- Declining visual amenity
- Increased risk and incidence of motor vehicle accidents.



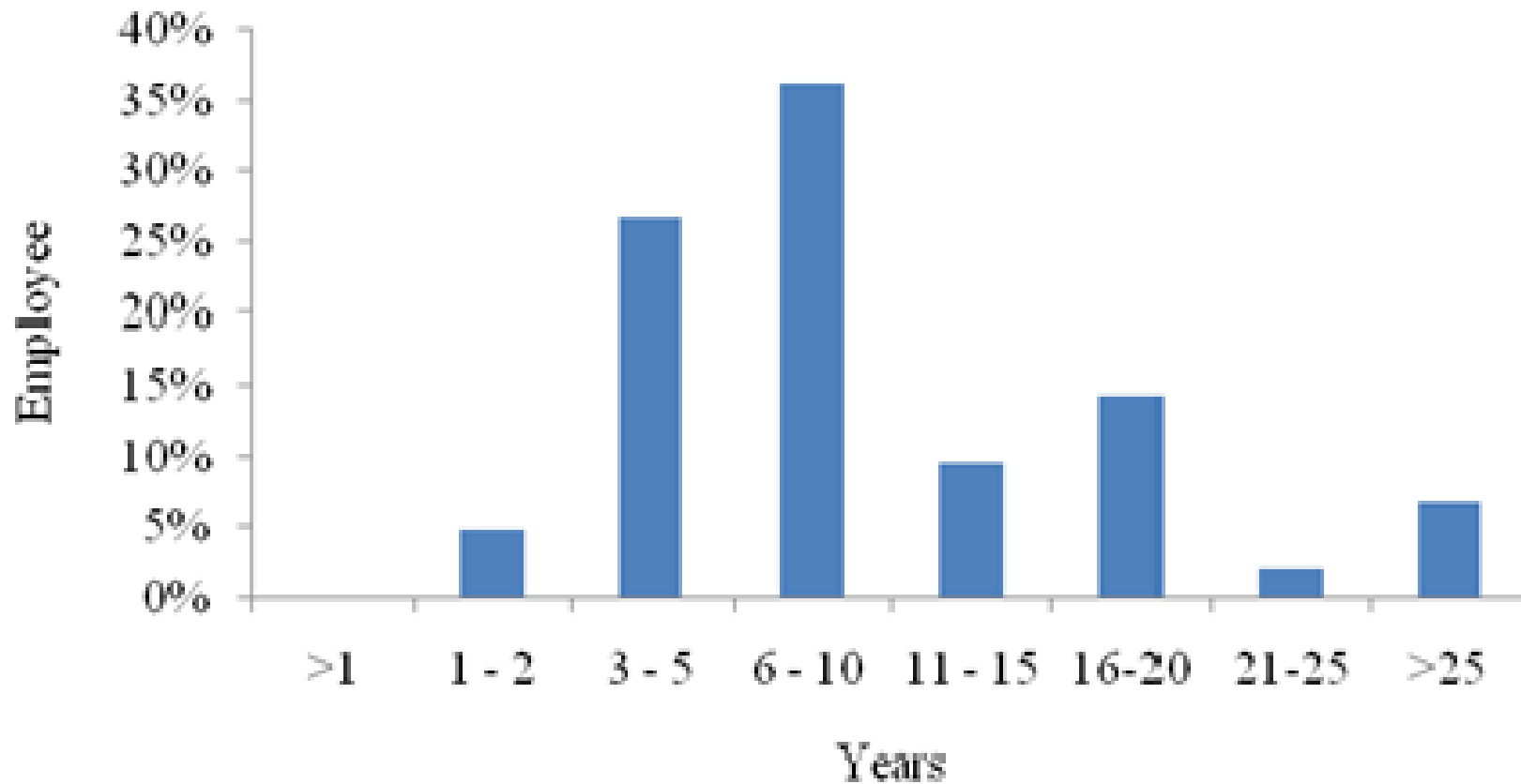
Survey of mine employees

- Identified where employees have come from and how long they have lived in Moranbah
- How long they expect to live there
- Key factors that influence where they would like to live

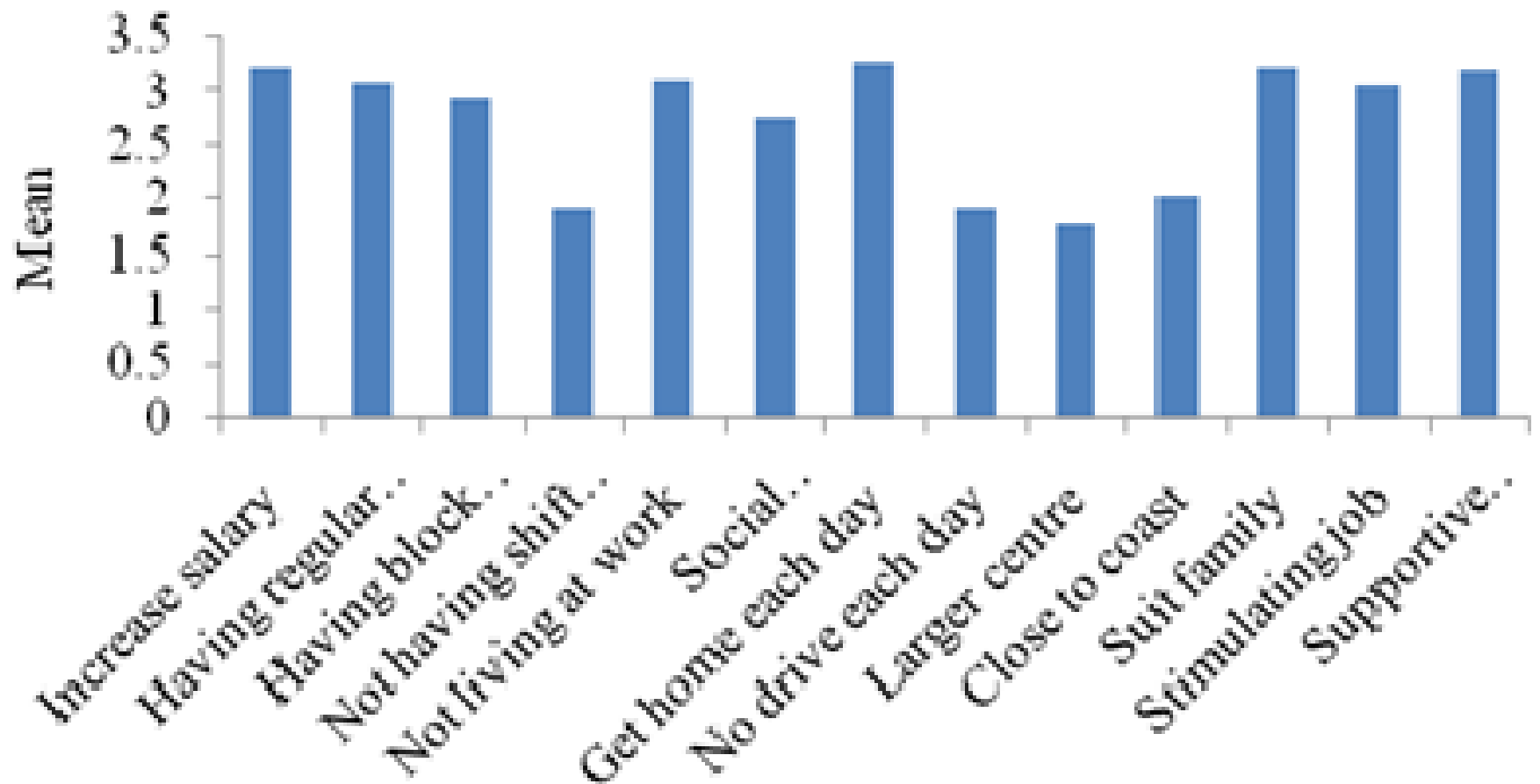
Length of stay in main town of residence



Expected future length of stay



Factors for future job and location choices

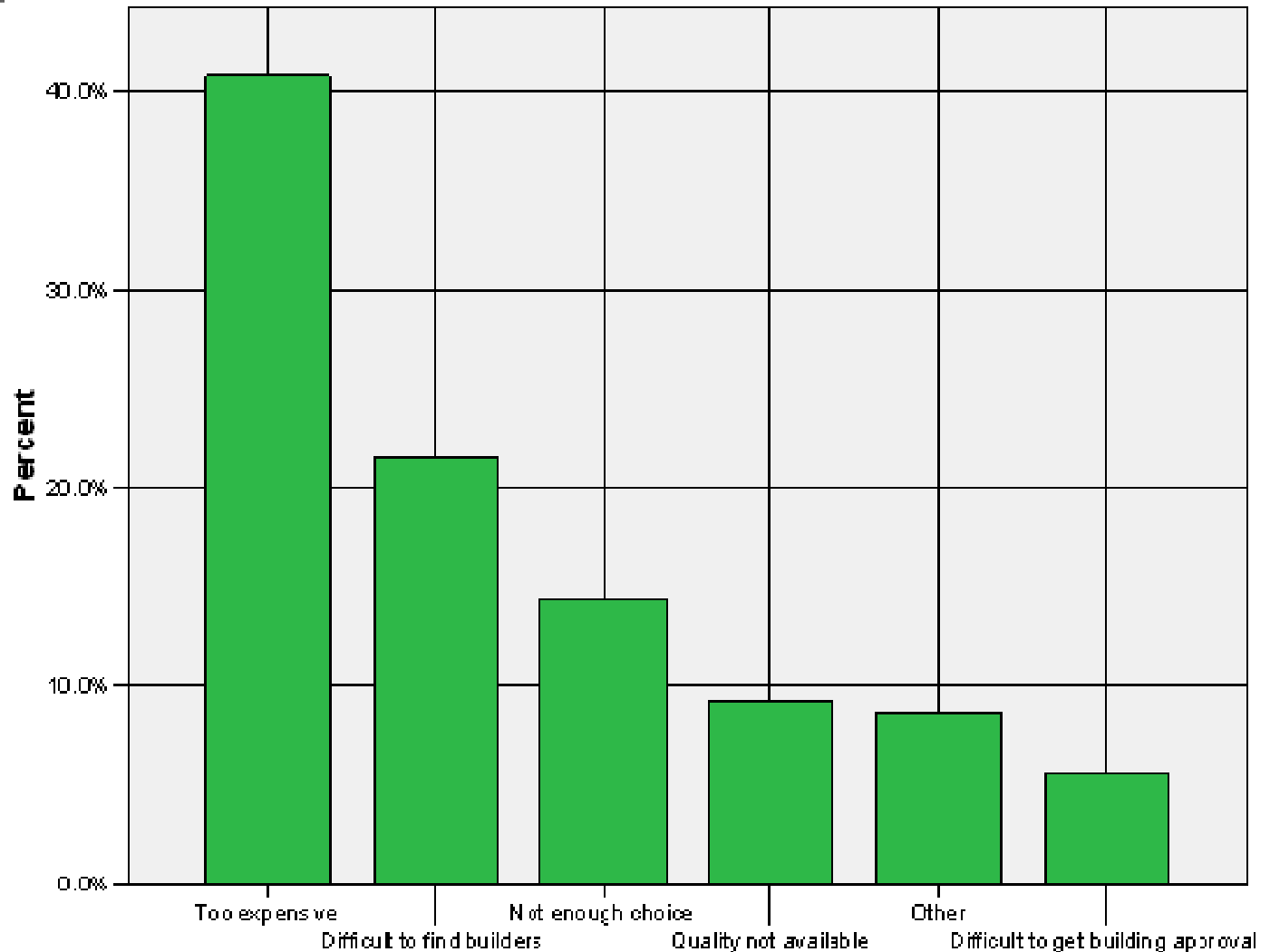
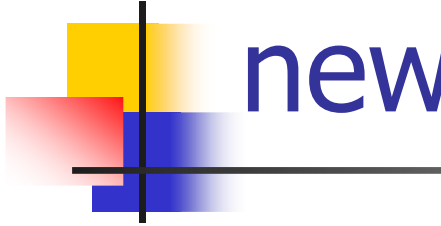


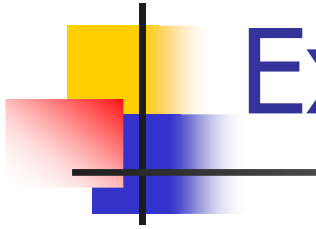


Moranbah community survey

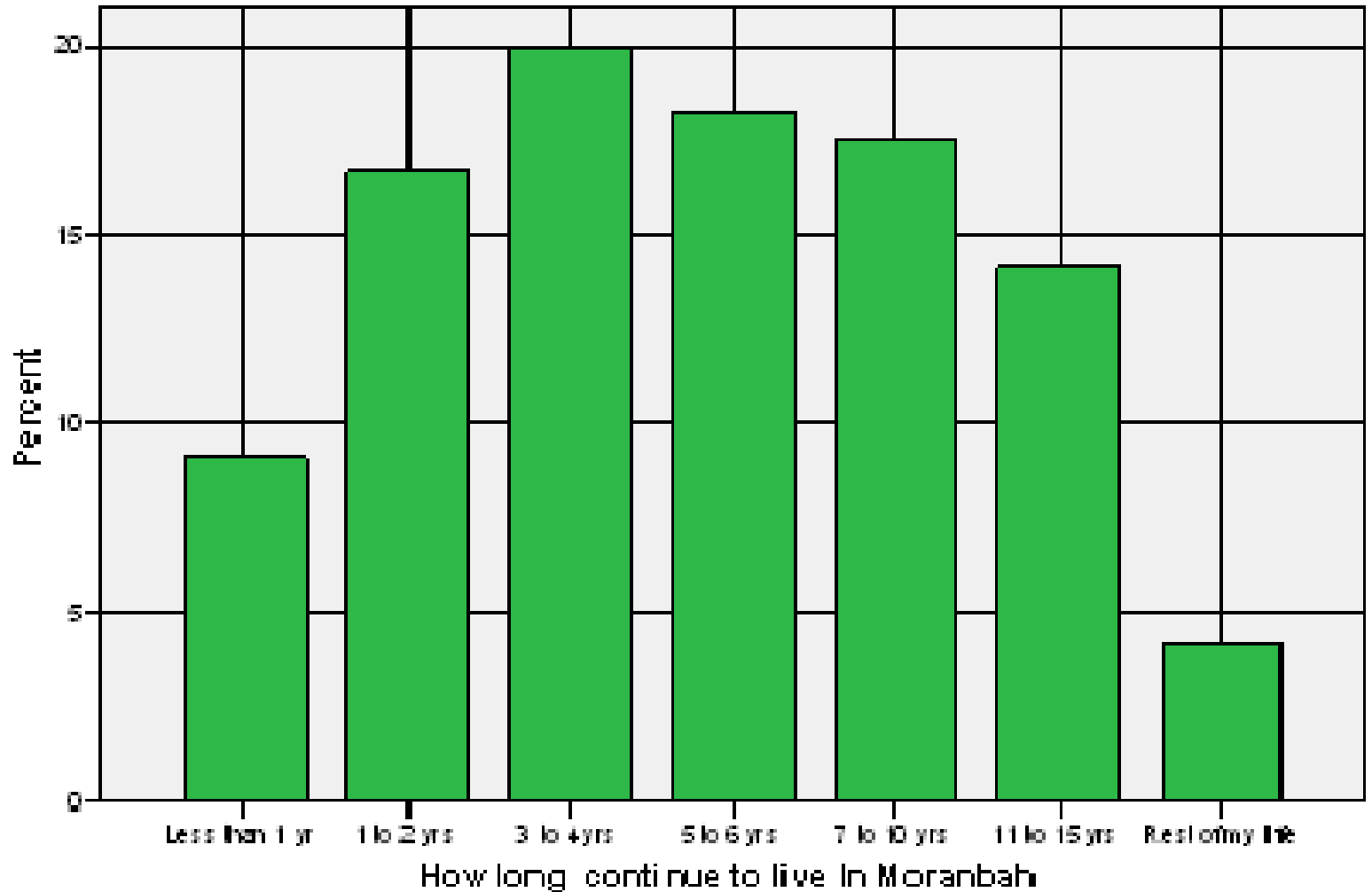
- Asked a range of questions
 - Barriers to buying or building new homes
 - How long residents expected to stay
 - 3 – 4 years is most common
 - Where people are likely to move to when they do shift
 - Small percentage will go to another mining town

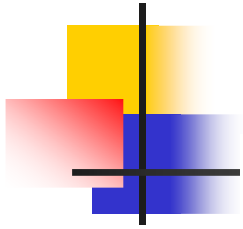
Barriers to buying or building new homes



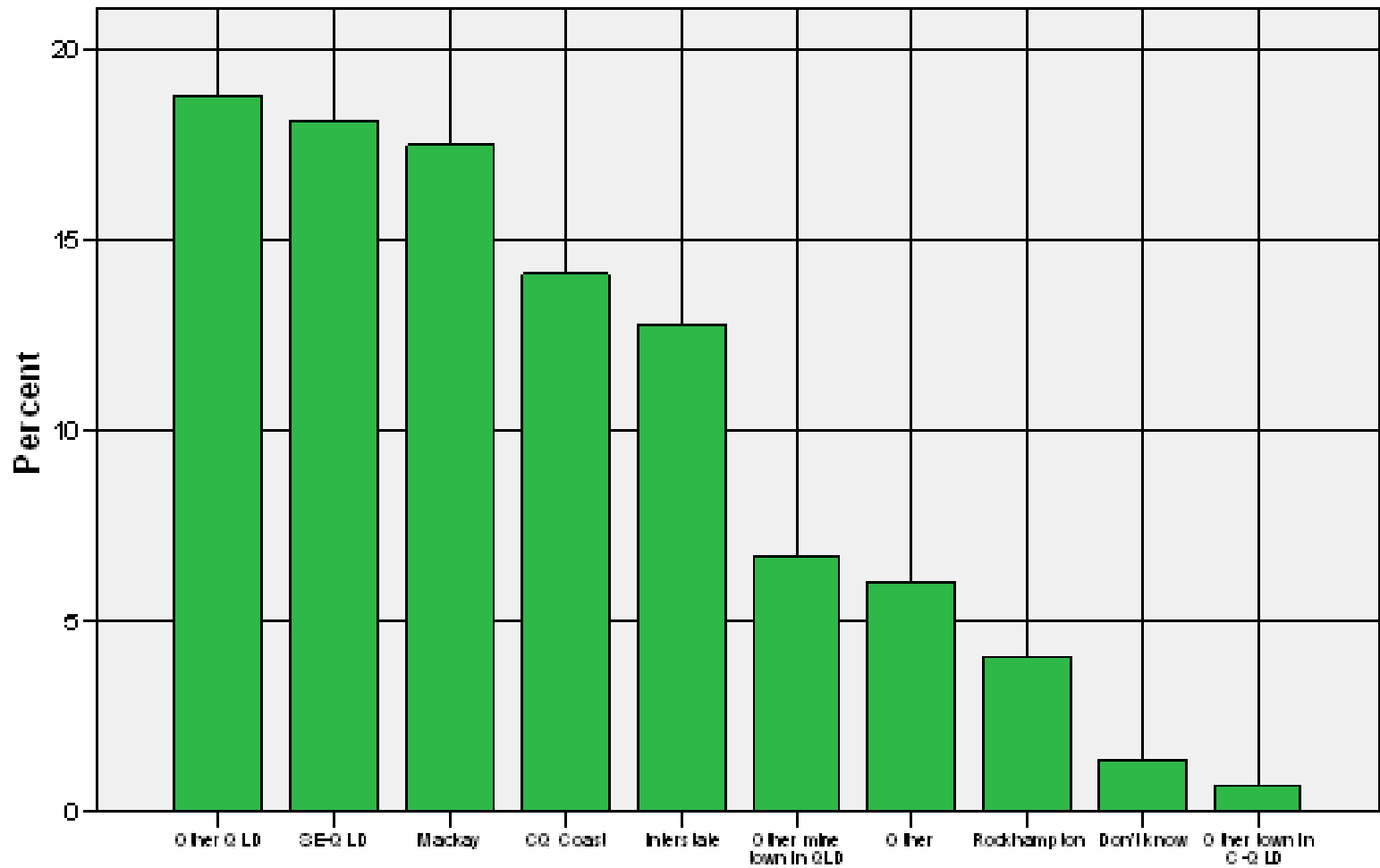


Expected future length of stay





Future location choice





Developing a decision framework

- CQU research team has developed a decision framework
 - Helps work through an assessment process
 - Key focus is to understand demographic, housing and labour force impacts on local communities
 - Framework comes with 12 key steps

Stage

Task

1

Identify workforce needs for new project

2

Identify available labour in local area

3

Predict labour force to be imported

4

Estimate direct local population impacts

5

Estimate indirect local population impacts

6

Predict other demographic trends and labour force impacts on local community

7

Identify housing characteristics in local community

8

Model housing requirements for new labour force requirements

9

Identify potential impacts of shortfalls

10

Identify strategies to address housing issues

11

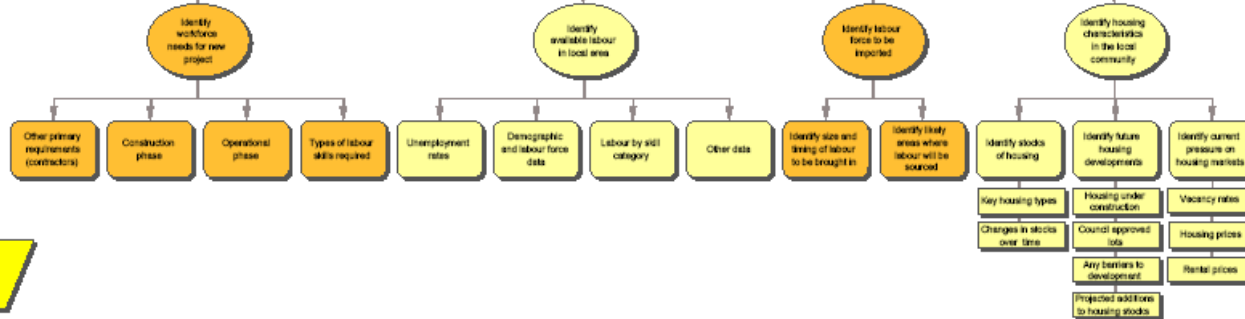
Identify strategies to address labour market issues

12

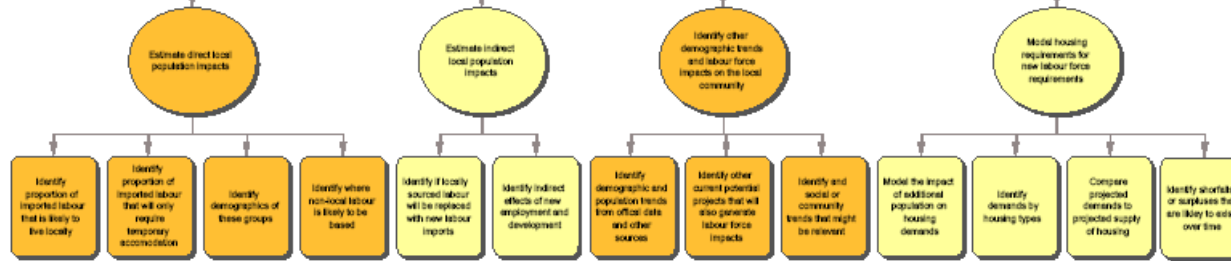
Identify issues associated with non-resident workforce

Decision Framework for Labour and Housing Requirements with New Mine Developments

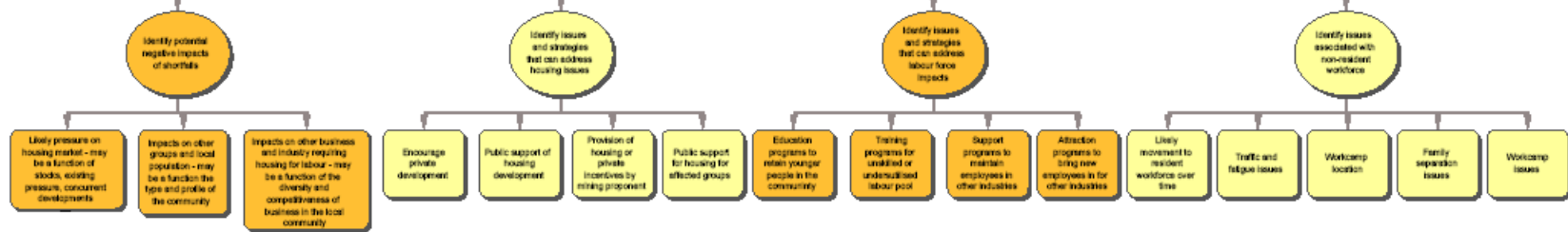
Background Inputs



Modelling



Policy and Analysis





Where to from here

- Final reports on Moranbah case study and decision framework will shortly be available through ACARP
- Research should help to make social impact assessment more understandable
- Should also help to make it more of an ongoing process
 - Instead of a once-off before projects start