

13 December 2023

Mr Roy Butler
Chair
Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development.

Dear Mr Butler,

RE: Inquiry into the Performance of the Regional Investment Activation Fund and the Regional Job Creation Fund.

Further to the evidence I provided via video link on Friday, December 8, 2023, I am responding to the question taken on notice, asked by Ms Maryanne Stuart.

“If I may put a question on notice, you said that there are other challenges that you would like to advise us on. If you’re able to provide that in writing to the Committee, we would greatly appreciate that.”

The following are other challenges we’ve been alerted to:

- The application for variations that were required for seemingly small changes, extended timeframes, milestone payments and pushed out completion dates.
- The time lag between application and approval and announcement was long and caused issues with some proponents. Some needed to hold off works until they were given the green light, some needed to move ahead and then needed to change what they wanted to do, therefore triggering a variation request, further pushing back the timelines.
- Comprehensive reporting is required for the use of public funds, however some of the businesses found the additional workload burdensome.
- Most issues have occurred when the proponent’s ideas or projects weren’t completely formed or shovel ready. They were the ones that struggled with timelines, as suppliers may have needed changing, for example and this would trigger the need for a variation application therefore further extending timelines.
- As noted in my verbal evidence, the biggest challenge with this program has been the DA process as many of the applicants required a DA approval to move ahead with their projects.

I wish to again thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide this evidence into the inquiry and look forward to seeing the outcome.

Kind regards,



Carisa Wells
CEO and Director of Regional Development