

# Response to the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

## New South Wales Regional Job Creation Fund

### Supplemental Question:

In your submission (pages 1 and 2), you identified that the timeframe of government grants doesn't always align with industry projects, and this limits the effectiveness of grants programs. What changes to the timeframe requirement would you recommend?

### AVS Response:

In our experience the decision to pursue a grant is generally aligned to a specific contract opportunity. Opportunity request for tenders include a submission, decision, and project implementation timeline and each of these stages can and do change. Consequently, the grant and opportunity pursuit schedules can very quickly fall out of alignment, in some cases as much as a year, waiting either for a decision, for the start of work, for both, or for other reasons.

Our recommendation therefore would be to identify during the application phase any linkages to specific opportunity pursuits, to include projected timelines illustrating the expected alignment, and then allow the grant process to be frozen where delays in that pursuit occur, for the duration of that delay. Additionally, there should be sufficient flexibility within the grant to re-align the grant execution against alternative pursuits should they arise.

Graham White  
19/03/2024