

**Submission  
No 3**

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES**

**Organisation:** Shoalhaven Business Chamber  
**Name:** Mr John Lamont  
**Position:** President  
**Date Received:** 13/03/2012

5<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The Committee Manager  
Committee on Economic Development  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Establishment of Special Economic Zones

The Shoalhaven Business Chamber represents over 320 businesses in the Shoalhaven local government area. The Shoalhaven Business Chamber works closely with Shoalhaven City Council to increase economic development in the region.

The Shoalhaven Business Chamber believes the Shoalhaven is an excellent area to establish a special economic zone in NSW.

The region has many resources to attract business to the area and provide economic benefits to the new business in the region, these include:

- Good access to dedicated industrial lands that have been zoned for future development..
- Available workforce due to current above average unemployment.
- Access to both TAFE and Wollongong University to assist in training for relocating businesses.
- Only one hour from Port Kembla Harbour and only 2 hours from Sydney.
- Good stock of lands that could be opened for new housing.
- Access to natural gas from Bass Straight.
- Good water resources and security.
- A Council and business community that works together and is focused on increasing development in the region.
- Good selection of both public and private schools to attract businesses.
- Attractive life style opportunities for employees.

The State Government has also recently committed funds to upgrade the road from Kiama to Bomaderry and from Nowra to South Nowra, improving the road transport network further.

Access to South markets is hoped will also be improved over the next 5 years with upgrades to the road network from Nowra to Canberra currently at the planning stage.

The type of incentives to attract both larger and smaller businesses could include:

- Making the region payroll tax exempt for relocating businesses for 3 to 5 years.
- Stamp duty concessions to relocating staff when buying property to help increase the demand on housing, hence boosting this critical area of the economy.
- Company relocation (similar to previous decentralisation grants) to help cover overhead costs in moving and relocating the business such as development application costs, changes to company registration costs and other similar state and local Government charges.
- Education and training incentives to ensure uptake to local TAFE and University
- These grants for the “zone” would also be supported by the current \$7,000 relocation allowance and new job payroll tax incentives.

The Shoalhaven Business Chamber will strongly support the actions of Shoalhaven City Council and NSW Government in the establishment of the Shoalhaven as a special economic zone.

Regards,



John Lamont  
President  
Shoalhaven Business Chamber

CC; Russ Pigg SCC  
Paul Green MLC  
Shelly Handcock, member for South Coast  
Gareth Ward, Member for Kiama