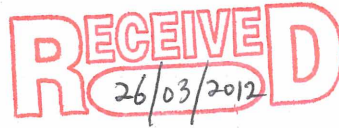


**Submission
No 14**

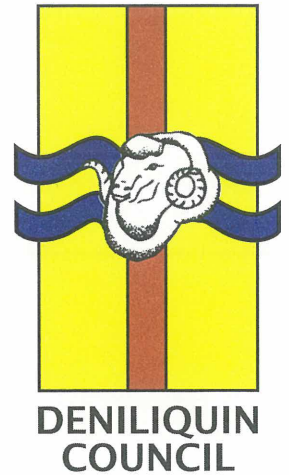
ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

Organisation: Deniliquin Council
Name: Mr Des Bilske
Position: General Manager
Date Received: 26/03/2012

23 March 2012



The Chair
Committee on Economic Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Sir

DENILIQUN COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

Initially concern is expressed about the limited promotion of this Inquiry as the Legislative Assembly media release of 13th February 2012 was not published in any local areas and not distributed through the Local Government network. Consequently only limited time has been available to Councils to prepare submissions following local members distributing the information on 20th March 2012.

Local Government often provides direct incentives to businesses that are planning to expand, relocate or for developing new business. This is often seen as a burden on the local community as the apparent direct benefit is the business itself. The community often do not see the longer term benefits of growth in business and consequently in employment as their responsibility. They believe this should be provided from other levels of Government.

Areas that Council believes the State Government can assist in regional economic development can be categorised under the following headings:

- Provision of concessions
- Provision of incentives
- Advancing existing programs
- Appropriate policy

Any new or expanding businesses consider opportunities for assistance through concessions such as a period of removal or deferral of payroll tax as mandatory for them to take the necessary steps into their planned expansion or start-up. They consider that the increase in employment opportunities should be compensated in some form.

The provision of incentives through grants and or investment assistance can help sound businesses that may not have adequate resources or the ability to attract capital to take steps to expand, commence new ventures and provide new employment opportunities.

All correspondence to be directed to the General Manager

Civic Centre
Civic Place
PO Box 270
Deniliquin NSW 2710

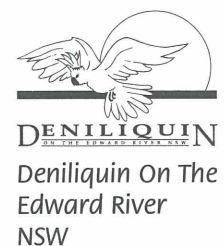
Telephone
03 5898 3000

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Email
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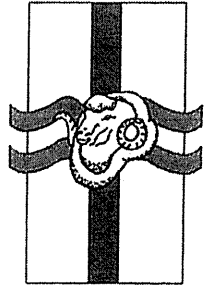
Website
www.deniliquin.nsw.gov.au

ABN 90 513 847 629



"Achievement through Action"

The provision of training assistance or professional development for new staff or retraining of existing staff for growing businesses or new ventures assists the businesses in ensuring that their investment has the best opportunity for success.



Advancing of existing programs such as the National Broadband Network provide early opportunities for regional, rural and remote business to provide the electronic services that are available through the larger metropolitan centres. The network availability will offer high technology companies greater choice of their work location reducing pressure on infrastructure within the larger centres and cities.

Policy decisions such as the conversion of the Red-gum Forests into National Parks often prove to be a very serious disincentive to investment in business in regional and rural areas as the requirement for certainty in investment is removed. It is essential that when these programs are considered that genuine community consultation is undertaken, rather than the non genuine attempts for the red-gum programs. Consequently the business does not commence or is only started at a very small scale rather than optimum levels. Governments must carefully consider the consequences of all policy decisions before introduction to satisfy minority groups.

The development of policy that provides for genuine decentralisation of State Government Departments into the smaller regional areas will assist in removing pressure from the larger metropolitan centres and larger regional centres. This will also support these centres reach breakeven point for provisions of other services and businesses. It is hard to see any reason why this cannot be facilitated with the current technology available for communication and integration of support services.

Your consideration of the above matters will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des Bilske', written in a cursive style.

Des Bilske
GENERAL MANAGER

