

**Submission
No 26**

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

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The Chair, Committee on Economic Development

As a small rural regional area, the concept of creating Special Economic Zones in order to create lasting financial return to our regional communities and to the state as a whole is potentially very beneficial.

We see a number of areas where incentives can be provided, however some of these will need representation to other areas of government including support to Local government

- Payroll tax the removal for a period for the bigger businesses however this does not provide incentive for the smaller businesses
- Stamp duty on purchases including those by employees m- we see the need to include employees who are investing in property purchase when they are employed by the relocating business
- Relocation incentives - cash payments to offset the cost of relocation
- Income tax incentives – the federal government should be canvassed by the states to ensure that all are included in the reduction of income tax for the region
- Establishment incentives including the streamlining of approvals and referrals where set up costs are significant – this as other areas should include the provision of long term interest free loans without prohibitive restrictions
- Removal of red tape – an ongoing source of frustration where many government departments are involved – provide a one stop shop approvals process where approvals are within an identified zone
- Waiving or assistance with HEX fees for staff engaged in training associated with the industry being supported
- Assistance direct to Council to meet the cost of waiving rates and charges for a specified period of say 2 years allowing the industry time to establish

We believe the regional organisation of Councils should be engaged by the inquiry in the form of face to face submissions where the smaller communities can be represented as a group, removing the focus by such enquiries on “Regional” to focus on “Rural and Remote” as a separate group for different consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, we trust the Enquiry will recognise that the findings will realise that “one size fits all” does not address the issues at hand.

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