

**Submission  
No 34**

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES**

**Organisation:** Tweed Shire Council  
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**Date Received:** 13/04/2012

Council Reference: Cross Border Issues  
Your Reference:



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Dear Mr Elliott

### **Establishment of Special Economic Zones - Parliamentary Inquiry**

Council would like to thank you for accepting this submission to the Committee on Economic Development on the Establishment of Special Economic Zones.

Tweed Shire Council has long dealt with the many and varied issues associated with living next to a State border. This administrative boundary has a dramatic impact on the daily lives of the Tweed community.

While the Australian Constitution specifically restricts tariffs or barriers to trade within the Commonwealth the ability of the States to levy different taxes can impose disincentives to the establishment and attraction of business. This becomes increasingly evident the closer businesses are trading and operating to the border.

Despite the fact that Tweed has a surplus of vacant employment lands it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract businesses to establish here. The main reason is the level of incentives and resources the Queensland State Government give to regional development. This has been established through a long standing collaboration with the Gold Coast City Council. This united stance offers an attractive environment for business.

The widening gap of every day disincentives for business to establish in the Tweed is constantly reiterated to Council and includes:

- Differences in Planning and Development requirements
- Business / Trade Licensing
- Insurance
- Pay Roll Taxes
- Public Transport
- Petrol Prices
- Livestock Movements
- Day Light Savings
- Public Holidays
- Other Taxes

Despite the state border Tweed Shire is part of the larger Gold Coast economic region. The impact of the Gold Coast on the Tweed economy can be demonstrated as follows:

- 5,824 people travel from the Tweed to the Gold Coast to work every day. This represents 3.2% of the Gold Coast's workforce
- 3,591 people travel from the Gold Coast to the Tweed to work every day. This represents 16.1% of the Tweed's workforce
- Only 2.5% of the Tweed's workforce comes from the rest of New South Wales including Byron Bay, Lismore and Ballina (Based on 2006 Working Population Census)

To compound the significance of this impact, Tweed and the Gold Coast have very similar dominant industries including Retail, Construction, Accommodation & Food Services and Health Care. All these sectors can demonstrate a casual, seasonal and transient nature to work patterns. Most workers in these industries do not respect a State border but will rather follow the work.

The disincentives for businesses to develop within the Tweed due to its proximity to the border should afford this area special consideration by this Inquiry.

**Tweed Shire Council strongly supports the proposal to establish a Special Economic Zone within the shire boundary of Tweed.**

Yours faithfully



**Mike Rayner**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

cc: Mr Geoff Provest MP