

**Submission
No 21**

ZONAL TAXATION

Organisation: Griffith Business Chamber
Name: Mr Paul Pierotti
Position: President
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Griffith Business Chamber are right amongst the important issues affecting businesses and strive to achieve key area's for Griffith to Thrive & Grow. <http://www.griffithbusinesschamber.com.au/>

Griffith is the regional capital to the Western Riverina in South West NSW.

Griffith city serves a vibrant & growing " Food Bowl " region with approximately 63,000 population in our catchment. We are the largest winemaking region in NSW & second in Australia only to The Barossa Valley.

We are also the major growing district to nearly all Australia's rice, a hugely expanding Cotton industry, Citrus, Almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, chicken, prunes & much more. We are located 6 ½ hour's drive from Sydney & 5 hours from Melbourne.

One of the greatest challenges to businesses in our region is recruiting competent and qualified staff to fill the many job vacancies. Last year Griffith's unemployment figures were reported to be as low as 2.75% which is well below State & National averages.

Our community is so keen to try & attract new people to move to Griffith that Business, Council & State Government came together to fund over \$100,000 campaign Griffith Now Hiring.

<http://www.griffithnowhiring.com.au/>

We believe that a "Zone A" special zone remote offset tax rebate should be applied as an income tax offset to people who work in Griffith & other growing regional centres.

Encouraging decentralization & putting people into jobs must a high priority for our State.

It is absolutely critical that the many vacant Griffith positions currently available in Health, Education, Emergency services & Local Government are prioritized to be filled.

We as a growing community have done all we can to encourage people to move to Griffith & fill these jobs, it is now time Our State Government build meaningful incentives to deliver the necessary outcomes our regional Community deserves.

Yours Faithfully,

Paul Pierotti

President of Griffith Business Chamber