

**Submission
No 11**

**PERFORMANCE OF THE REGIONAL INVESTMENT ACTIVATION FUND AND
THE REGIONAL JOB CREATION FUND**

Organisation: Birdon Group
Date Received: 27 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Birdon Holdings Pty Ltd (Birdon). We have been fortunate enough to be the recipient of funding through the Regional Jobs Creation Fund (Application RJCF – 0479) to support our Port Macquarie Facilities Upgrade.

By way of background, the Birdon Group is a proudly Australian-owned global group of companies providing whole of life solutions to the maritime, military, infrastructure, and resource sectors. Established as a dredging and marine contractor in 1977 at what is now our Port Macquarie shipyard, Birdon delivers value for its customers through our innovative people, organisational agility, and operational excellence. Birdon's experience spans over 45 years and we deliver projects for defence, government, and corporate customers worldwide.

Birdon's Port Macquarie shipyard, located in Regional New South Wales (NSW), is home to our Australian Corporate Head Office, and a significant base of operations for our maritime and production services supporting customers Australia-wide. Through co-investment with the NSW Government, through the Regional Jobs Creation Fund, Birdon have delivered substantial upgrades to its Port Macquarie Facilities and regional dredging operations through facilities, equipment and technology upgrades. This has included refurbishment of our shipyard offices, construction of a new warehouse facility (currently being finalised), cyber and physical security upgrades, construction of on-site effluent management and solar panel installation to support sustainability of our ongoing operations, as well as implementation of new technology solutions to support our operational efficiency and digital shipyard aspirations. Collectively these have achieved, and continue to support, significant uplift in the creation of regional jobs directly within Birdon, as well as through the broader local supply chain with which we work.

We are grateful of the opportunity to have been a part of the Regional Jobs Creation Fund, and to have worked closely with the regionally based and broader NSW Government team throughout establishment and delivery against the Funding Deed.

Despite this initiative and the positive outcomes that it has achieved, in considering the future growth of regional jobs, both within Birdon and more broadly, the region continues to be challenged by the ability to attract and retain the skills and workforce it requires. Cost of living pressures, availability and cost of goods regionally, housing prices and availability, as well as employment and career progression opportunities for partners, continue to be cited as impediments for uptake of available opportunities.

Again, we are grateful for the opportunity to have been supported by the Regional Jobs Creation Fund and commend the NSW Government on this initiative.

Kind regards,
Alex Fisher

Alex Fisher

GM Assets

Birdon Group



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