

**Submission
No 24**

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

Organisation: Timber NSW
Date Received: 27 October 2023



TIMBER NSW

27 October 2023

Ms Alison Buskens,
Committee Manager,
Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment,
Industry and Regional development,
Parliament House,
Macquarie St,
Sydney NSW 2000
E: investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Buskens,

Re: Submission to Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development.

Your correspondence referred to the invitation by email in August this year to make a submission to the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development's current inquiry into the performance of the Regional Investment Activation Fund and the Regional Job Creation Fund.

I have made inquiries of the members of Timber NSW and interrogated my files concerning the Regional Investment Activation Fund and the Regional Job Creation Fund. We have no record of being advised of the establishment or opening of those funds.

Unless notification was sent to individual companies, then the native forest industry was not made aware of the Funds.

As a general rule it has been the experience that the manufacturing section of the timber industry does not qualify for any assistance as the industry purchased native hardwood logs for processing. In line with this comment, it is our general experience that the guidelines of any industry fund do not include businesses associated native forests by omission or the criteria is set so that most do not qualify.

It is not clear if this is by design or ignorance. As an example, the Northern NSW flood relief grants primarily did not include the businesses in the forest industry that were in the region and very adversely impacted by the flooding event. In spite of repeated and strenuous representations this never changed. A handful of private native forest owners received a maximum of \$10k towards repairs on the property and a few haulage operators received a haulage subsidy 5 months after the floods.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Maree McCaskill.

Maree McCaskill
Chief Executive Officer