

**Submission  
No 29**

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

**Organisation:** North Coast Recycling Pty Ltd

**Date Received:** 29 November 2023

Partially  
Confidential

North Coast Recycling was encouraged by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Department of Regional NSW) to apply for the RIAF - Stream 2 Grant after a meeting held at our recycling premises November 10th 2022. It was stated that our ambition to create a Gyprock Recycling Plant in the Casino Region aligned advantageously to the aims and objectives of the RIAF and that a grant would be the added financial injection required to ensure the establishment and successful implementation of the plant.

A very lengthy, informative and time consuming submission was prepared over three months, outlining the project and the wider economic benefits as well as the diverse employment opportunities it would offer the local community, including Indigenous employees. Many of the grant questions and excel sheets proved very ambiguous and challenging to navigate and assistance was required from our accountant and bank manager. Land was earmarked for the project with the help of [REDACTED] from Richmond Valley Council and multiple quotes from different machinery and plant equipment manufacturers were sourced. Endorsements for our proposed project were secured from experts in Sustainable Soils Management, North East Waste and Richmond Valley Council. Preparation of documents and personnel time spent on ensuring the submission included all the relevant and requested information for this grant cost our business in excess of \$30,000. Our application was submitted on the 5th May (within the deadline of 15th May) with no feedback given apart from requests for added information.

On Wednesday 9th August, we rang [REDACTED] to ask if she knew where our grant submission was up to as still no feedback had been received only to be told that the RIAF had been put on hold due to the change in government in NSW and it was unlikely any funds would be allocated to this project. No formal response had been given to us at this time which we felt was disappointing considering the time, money and level of productivity we had committed as a small business to this endeavour. An email was received on September 22nd 2023 from Department of Regional NSW confirming the RIAF would no longer proceed - four and a half months after we submitted our application.

In summary, whilst we have not been allocated any of the funds from this pool of government money, our experience has been very disappointing, expensive and disenchanting. Communication and feedback has been lacking and transparency has been questionable.