

**Submission
No 36**

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

Organisation: Australian Queen Bee Line

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30th November 2023

Dear Legislative Committee

Re: Performance of Regional Investment Activation Fund and the Regional Job Creation Fund

We would like to show our appreciation in providing us the opportunity to provide feedback of the Regional Job Creation Fund.

The co-contribution of the Government allowed us to move forward with an additional extraction plant and therefore further expand our organic line. Without the funding supplied by the Government our expansion would have been delayed, possibly by years.

Unfortunately, there have been some experiences that have made the entire process to have funds released arduous, time consuming, stressful and has ultimately resulted in significant delays in the completion of the project. As of today, Thursday 30/11/2023 our project has yet to be installed and the project was originally meant to be completed in May 2023.

There seems to have been a significant difference between expectations and reality. For future programs, there should be minor improvements made in the process to simplify, educate, and streamline. The timeframe deadlines set by the Department are ambitious to fulfil and don't take into consideration external factors impacting projects.

The Development Application and modification process is a major impediment of the planning process and has the opposite impact – discouraging investment due to arduous, costly and timely processes. At times it has seemed like once one requirement is submitted another requirement would appear. Lack of consistent and concise assistance from the Department further slows the process.

Although we are grateful for the Funding, the processes involved are confusing, time consuming, risky considering that if strict parameters are not met, funding could be denied.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to deliver feedback via this submission, and dedicating the time to consider performance of these funds and associated impediments in order to benefit regional NSW into the future.

Kind Regards

Mario Casido
Director