

**Submission
No 4**

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND A GLOBAL SYDNEY

Organisation: Goulburn Mulwaree Council

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Office of the General Manager

17 May 2017

The Hon Greg Pearce - MLC
Committee Chair
State Development Committee
State Parliament Sydney
By Email

Dear Minister Pearce

Subject: Inquiry into Regional Development

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council thanks you for the opportunity of making a submission into your Upper House Inquiry into Regional Development and a Global Sydney.

The answers to the expansion of Sydney rest in Regional NSW.

As Sydney grows into this Global City a number of businesses will be forced out of their prime locations to areas of NSW that are better capable of accepting these industries at a reasonable investment.

Recently Goulburn Mulwaree Council worked tirelessly with TMA Group who had to relocate from their premises in Fairfield. Council spoke a number of times to State Government representatives including Ministers to have this business relocated to Goulburn. The business proposed up to 500 employees and required a warehouse of about 20,000sq metres. The State Government informed Council that it could not assist because there was no policy in place. The only relevant policy was with Industry NSW which had a relocation incentive for businesses if there was "net employment gain". As this business was relocating from Sydney to Goulburn there was no net employment gain.

The business is now relocated to Victoria and there is now a net employment loss to NSW of 500 jobs. That business could have been retained in NSW if the State Government had of had meaningful discussions with TMA Group and worked proactively with their management on some form of relocation incentives.

In January of this year, the Minister of Regional Development stated on radio that incentives they were investigating for businesses moving to Regional NSW included Stamp Duty and discounted payroll tax. Either of these two incentives if discussed with TMA Group would have been sufficient to have kept that business in NSW.

If the State Government is serious about enhancing Regional Development in NSW then a policy and directive to bureaucrats needs to be addressed with haste. This Council's focus is not to dwell on the TMA lost opportunity but to get the State Government to act responsibly so as not to lose any other opportunities.

There are a significant number of businesses in the Sydney basin that need to relocate as Sydney grows. If it is good enough for NSW to give business relocation incentives to businesses relocating from outside the state then surely it is logical for the State Government to do everything it can to keep existing businesses within NSW.

This submission seeks your committee to recommend a policy on business relocation incentives from Sydney basin to Regional NSW.

Yours faithfully

Warwick Bennett
General Manager

Email council@goulburn.nsw.gov.au