

Local Preference Policy

Policy Details

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Policy Owner	Chief Operations Officer
Contact Officer	Director of Engineering

Supporting documentation

Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Government Act 2009Local Government Regulation 2012
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Procurement Policy 2025Order of Engagement PolicyQueensland Procurement Policy 2023Queensland Procurement Strategy 2023Fraud and Corruption Prevention PolicyTrade Practices Act 1974 Competition and Consumer ActEmployee Code of Conduct
Delegations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Director of Engineering and Evaluation Panel
Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tender Documents and Schedules
Supporting Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Request for Tender – ROPS Wet Hire Each Construction Season

Version History

Version	Approval Date	Comment	eDRMS #
4	20/11/2019	Changes as per Resolution No. 1119/026	
5	22/01/2025	Changes as per Resolution No. 0125/004	
6	19/02/2025	Changes as per Resolution No. 0225/014	
7	19/11/2025	Changes as per Resolution No. 1125/010	

Contents

INTENT	3
SCOPE	3
PROVISIONS.....	3
POLICY	3
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	4
DEFINITIONS.....	4

Intent

The purpose of Council's Local Preference Policy is to provide consistent direction and guidance to all officers when undertaking procurement activities in line with sound contracting principles in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009, Queensland Procurement Policy (QPP 2023) and Queensland Procurement Strategy (QPS 2023) to achieve:*

- value for money;
- open and effective competition;
- the development of competitive local business and industry;
- environmental protection; and
- ethical behavior and fair dealing.

Scope

This Policy is applicable to all Council staff, consultants or personnel engaged in assessing and / or evaluating quotations, tenders or expression of interest for:

- supply of goods or services;
- carrying out of works; or
- the disposal of assets.

Policy Statement

Council is committed to the procurement principles defined in the QPS 2023 where procurement power is to be used to leverage and support:

- the growth of quality local jobs.
- long term resilience of local businesses through "legacy" strategies and projects.
- the development of local manufacturing and / or supply chains.
- innovation and diversity to improve resilience of local community values.
- ethical practices to build confidence in the procurement process.
- protection of the environment and cultural heritage values.

The QPS 2023 "recognises that... 'value for money' is more than the lowest price, Buy Queensland uses public spending to drive the government's economic, ethical, social and environmental objectives that support Queenslanders."

It is Council's preference to accept a tender submission or offer from a local supplier in preference to a comparable tender submission or offer from a non-local supplier even if the tender submission or offer from the non-local supplier has been assessed as more favorable.

For this purpose, when evaluating any quotation, tender or expression of interest, a "Local Content" criterion of up to 30% shall be applied to all procurement assessments, so long as it can be shown that the selected local supplier can meet Council's requirements at an acceptable standard and has a history of continual improvement that aligns with QPS 2023 and Council's values and objectives.

Assessment guidance

The intent of this Policy has been guided by the following:

Queensland Procurement Strategy 2023 - Objectives

- Quality Local Jobs – Leverage procurement power to support local suppliers and stimulate growth and skills development.
- Thriving, Resilient Economy – Use procurement to drive sustainable economic growth, encourage innovation and increase supplier diversity.
- Intergenerational Legacy – Deliver today and invest in tomorrow through responsible public procurement.
- Trust in Procurement – Deliver excellent outcomes through leading procurement policy and practice.

Northern Australia Action Plan 2024 - 2029

- Growing the Northern Australia Workforce – Expand local training and apprenticeship programs to grow homegrown talent.
- Livable, Healthy, and Resilient Communities – Support towns undergoing economic transition, helping them adapt to shifting industries.

Council commitment to sustainable economic and social objectives

Council recognises there is a limited local economy and associated budget available to maintain a long-term sustainable economy. A review of historic projects in the Shire identifies the sustainable long-term construction / maintenance budget of approximately \$50million is appropriate. For delivery, approximately 5 x QRA crews and 1 x TMR (Stabiliser) Crew are generally required for each construction period (April to December).

Council supports sustainable economic growth by ameliorating significant procurement fluctuations where possible. Significant expenditure in one year has the real possibility of destabilizing the economy by initially creating an influx of a transient workforce during unsustainable employment peaks followed by troughs that force the locally trained and skilled workforce (with their families) to seek opportunities elsewhere.

Council is also committed to ensuring there are no “monopolies” that would severely limit “*supplier diversity*” and destabilise long term economic and social sustainability. In order to “*drive sustainable local supplier diversity*” Council will not assign work to a single contractor or a limited number of companies but will invest in all local suppliers who can deliver a high standard product while supporting Council’s procurement objectives, in particular employment and training for local residents.

Council believes “Legacy (intergenerational) Outcomes” can be achieved where suppliers are committed to investing in the local community, up-skilling local employees and the development of quality local facilities. Organisations that merely purchase local “assets” (i.e. land or buildings that can be liquidated at any time) without investing in substantial and permanent improvements, do not contribute to the “legacy” values of Council’s procurement strategy.

Council considers large-scale suppliers who are substantially located outside the Shire, pose the highest risk of decimating the local economy. Even with minor short-term local job loss, entire families will be forced to relocate, resulting in a catastrophic breakdown of the current “*sustainable, resilient economy*”.

Target Outcomes

Council assigns the highest economic and community resilience value to long-term permanent residents, in particular families, that contribute significantly to the diminished local economy during the wet season.

Council considers the purchase of items such as fuel, food and social engagement etc. during the construction period as an inevitable “by-product” of Council’s budget, spending and procurement strategy – not an additional contribution by the supplier.

Likewise, the payment of Council rates is considered a mutual transaction for the purchase of essential services and is not considered an additional contribution by the supplier.

Council believes intergenerational legacy outcomes associated with local economic and social resilience can best be leveraged from the employment and training of permanent, long-term local residents. In particular, local spending and local employment during the wet season (i.e. machinery maintenance) will assist with providing responsive and readily available services. Development of permanent local assets (using local contractors where possible) will further contribute to the ongoing survival and ultimate growth of the local economy.

To assist with the assessment process, Council has assigned (4) supplier levels as defined in “Definitions” below. Council has directed that a local contribution criterion, of up to 30%, shall be included in ROPS tenders in accordance with the following:

Supplier Level 1 - will be assigned 30%.

Supplier Level 2 –will be assigned 20%.

Supplier Level 3 - will be assigned 5%.

Supplier Level 4 - will be assigned 0%.

Key Responsibilities

Accountable Officer	Responsibility
Director of Engineering	To review and ensure compliance with this Policy.
Chief Operations Officer	To review Inventory guidelines to ensure the efficient and effective use of Council resources and the mitigation of any identified risks.
Managers/Supervisors	To actively support and deliver outcomes in accordance with the requirements of this Policy.
Responsible Officers	To act in good faith within the provision and intent of this Policy.

Definitions

CSC	Carpentaria Shire Council
Council	Carpentaria Shire Council
ECV	Enduring Community Value – as defined in QPP clause 26
Employee	Refers to any Council Employee or contract staff member.
Permanent Resident	A person who is known to “live all year round” in Carpentaria LGA for a significant period. Where an assessment of “Permanent Resident” status is required, the construction period (generally April to December whilst engaged by Council) shall be excluded.
Primary Place of Business	A Primary Place of Business must include a permanent building that contributes to Council’s legacy outcomes. The building must meet all structural and building certification requirements in accordance with Australian Standards and Council’s planning requirements.
Local Region	LGAs immediately adjacent to the Carpentaria Shire.
QPP	Queensland Procurement Policy 2023
QPS	Queensland Procurement Strategy 2023
Supplier Level 1	Locally Owned, Local Business - refers to a supplier that is majority owned and operated by a long term (greater than 12 months) permanent resident of the Shire and has a primary place of business within Carpentaria LGA. Level 1 specifically excludes suppliers that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> claim local status in any other LGA have a head office located outside the Shire boundaries
Supplier Level 2	Regionally Owned, Local Business - refers to a supplier whose head office or normal place of residence is located outside the Shire area; however, they have a established and Council approved, fit for purpose place of business and accommodation within the Shire. The business primarily employs persons who are residents or ratepayers of the Shire and use local resources on a continuous basis.
Supplier Level 3	Regional Business - refers to a supplier who has an established, long-term business in the Local Region.
Supplier Level 4	Non-Local Business – All other suppliers not classified as Supplier Level 1, 2 or 3.

Registered Business	A company or entity as defined by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and that also appears as “Active” in the ASIC Business Name Register and as amended from time to time.
Responsible Officers	All personnel participating in the procurement process including employees, consultants and contractors.
The Act	Local Government Act 2009
The Regulations	Local Government Regulation 2012
Whole of Life Cost (WoLC)	The total of all costs over the life of the good/service/work (i.e. acquisition, maintenance and disposal costs)

Adopted by Council on 19 November 2025 by Resolution number 1125/010.

Anne Andrews
Chief Executive Officer