




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Procurement Policy

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (9.50 am): The Newman government is taking government procurement from being a back office function and is recognising the contribution it can make not only to Queensland's bottom line but also to the everyday lives of Queenslanders.

The Queensland government currently spends about \$11 billion annually on goods and services including capital assets and works. With this magnitude of spend there is enormous potential to deliver savings, and we plan to do that over the next five years—aiming to save between \$660 million and \$1.3 billion. In transforming the way we do our procurement we plan to eliminate administrative burden, reduce red tape and present government as an attractive customer who is easy to do business with. But to harness these savings and benefits we need to make real changes on the ground in the way we approach our procurement.

The government's new Procurement Policy has shifted from taking a prescriptive approach focused on compliance to taking a principles based, outcome focused approach which is flexible and encourages innovation without forgoing accountability. The policy has been reduced from 32 pages to two, with a few additional pages of explanation.

The new Queensland Procurement Policy is based on six principles. Principle 1 is that we will drive value for money in our procurement. This is the primary principle of the QPP, reflecting this government's focus on delivering value-for-money outcomes. Principle 2 is that we will act as one government, working together across agency boundaries to achieve savings and benefits. Principle 3 is that we will strive to be leaders in procurement practice—that we will understand our needs, the market, our suppliers and have the capability to deliver better outcomes.

Principle 4 is that we will use our procurement to advance the government's economic, environmental and social objectives and support the long-term wellbeing of our community. Principle 5 is that we will have the confidence of stakeholders and the community in the government management of procurement. And principle 6 is that we undertake our procurement with integrity, ensuring accountability for our outcomes.

The revision of this important whole-of-government policy is a building block in our government's drive to save millions of dollars, restore accountability at the right levels and achieve much needed cultural changes across the public sector. The journey is just beginning. I am encouraged by the progress made so far and by the level of cooperation by departments across government.

The department has already conducted forums in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and on the Gold and Sunshine coasts to explain the new policy to relevant stakeholders, and a seventh forum will be held in Toowoomba next Wednesday. I am happy to be part of that process. The whole-of-government procurement strategy puts us on the right path to deliver great benefits to the government, to suppliers and to the people of Queensland.