

Question on Notice
No. 197
Asked on Wednesday, 19 February 2020

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to serious flaws with the government's Queensland Procurement Policy and the local benefits test under the policy, which makes it extremely difficult and expensive for local firms to secure supply or work contracts—

Will the Minister commit to a review of this policy to provide a higher level of departmental assistance to ensure that local firms have a better chance to secure state government work or supply contracts?

ANSWER

The *Buy Queensland* approach to procurement, which includes the Queensland Procurement Policy, was launched in July 2017 to ensure that the government's significant investment in procurement supports as many local jobs and businesses as possible.

Since its launch, the Queensland Procurement Policy has been regularly reviewed to enhance the *Buy Queensland* approach and deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders. Over that time, spend with Queensland businesses has increased by almost \$900 million or about 10.2%. This means that more than 32,500 Queensland businesses have supplied goods and services worth about \$17 billion to the Queensland Government since the introduction of the policy.

Driving this increase is the Local Benefits Test, a key *Buy Queensland* approach initiative, conducted for all significant procurement. A weighting of up to 30 per cent is applied through the test. Application of the test is designed to bring direct and indirect benefits to Queensland communities, and can include benefits such as support for local jobs, opportunities for local supply chains, opportunities for apprentices and trainees, and the use of Aboriginal businesses and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

The Queensland Procurement Policy Compliance Unit ensures this commitment to the Local Benefits Test through a program of audit. The Compliance Unit supports local firms' access to government work through education and support to government buyers and contractors.