

Disaggregate government contracts

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The Plan to make Tasmania attractive
for investment and to create jobs

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The Liberals recognise that getting value for money when procuring goods and services is not just about getting the lowest price.

It is about reducing red tape, making it easier and more attractive to do business with government, increasing transparency, encouraging greater competition and ensuring better service delivery

Disaggregate government contracts

Government is the biggest purchaser of goods and services in Tasmania. Unfortunately, the Labor-Green Government's preference towards large, state-wide contracts has resulted in the exclusion of many small businesses from the public sector procurement market.

Tasmania's 36,000 small businesses, employing more than 105,000 people, are the engine room of our economy. Yet we have seen and heard from businesses drowning in red and Green tape, with many businesses challenged by the complex and onerous requirements of securing large contracts and tenders for local work.

The Labor-Green Government continues to ignore local firms in favour of interstate competitors for relatively minor savings, without taking into account the effect on the wider community.

The Liberals have already committed to introduce a Local Benefits Test for Government purchasing, requiring the government to take into account the wider community and social benefits of purchasing decisions, not just the price.

Local businesses have also told us that contract size is one of the greatest impediments to winning business and we agree. Local businesses deserve to benefit from Government spending.

A majority Liberal Government will disaggregate large government contracts into smaller, more manageable tenders with more commercially reasonable terms and conditions, to further open the market to all Tasmanian businesses.

Tender specifications will focus on outcomes. Tenders will be released on a regional – not state-wide - basis to encourage smaller businesses to submit tender responses.