



PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT POLICY P3.0161.7

PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT POLICY

DIRECTORATE: Growth and Finance
BRANCH: Finance & Property Services
CATEGORY: 2

1. Purpose

1.1. This Policy refers to Council's procurement of all goods and services in pursuing its commitment to efficiently deliver services which meet the needs of our community and maximise economic, social and environmental outcomes.

2. Alignment with Community Strategic Plan

2.1. Council's Community Strategic Plan 2036 identifies five key directions to guide Council towards achievement of the vision for Camden to 2036 that "Camden is a connected, diverse, and thriving community, embracing opportunities of growth, while valuing our rich heritage and protecting and sharing responsibility for our natural environment".

2.2. The following objective is applicable to this Policy and relevant to the key direction of Leading:

- L3 – Our Council decisions are informed, accountable and transparent.

3. Scope

3.1. This Policy applies to all purchasing, procurement, tendering and contracting activities undertaken by Camden Council and is binding on Council officers (i.e. staff, contractors, consultants, Committee members, volunteers etc) who are involved in any aspect of procurement on behalf of Council.

3.2. There are exemptions to tendering requirements provided for under Section 55 of the Act (for example, statutory payments). Further guidance in relation to these exemptions is provided in Council's *Procurement Procedures and Guidelines* documentation.

4. Objectives

4.1. The objective of this policy is to set out the principles and framework for Council's purchasing and procurement activities and to ensure that Council is at all times compliant with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation), the *NSW Modern*

Slavery Act 2018, Tendering Guidelines for NSW Local Government and Council's Code of Conduct in relation to the procurement of goods and services.

4.2. Through the application of this Policy, Council is committed to the following:

- Setting out Council's procurement governance framework
- Obtaining value for money for the Community which includes consideration of upfront costs as well as whole of life costs
- Transparency and accountability
- Advancing environmental and social sustainability and achieving positive sustainability outcomes
- Eliminating any conflicts of interest
- Monitoring and evaluating performance
- Providing policy and guidance on purchasing and procurement activities to ensure consistency.

5. Policy Statement

5.1. Delegated Authority

5.1.1. In order to purchase goods and services on behalf of Council, delegated authority is required from the General Manager. Numerous employees of Council are charged with financial sub-delegations for the *Purchasing and Procurement of Goods, Works and Services*. Employees may only procure goods and/or services applicable to their delegated authority.

5.1.2. Financial sub-delegations define the financial limitations within which specified staff may approve a purchase, quotation and contractual processes. Employees may only procure goods and/or services in accordance with these sub-delegations.

5.1.3. The General Manager has delegated authority to accept tenders up to a value of \$2 million (Including GST), noting the restrictions placed on this delegation under Section 377(1)i) of the Act.

5.1.4. The General Manager has delegated authority to reject all tenders in circumstances where no submitted tender meets the specifications set out by Council in the tender documents or where tender prices exceed approved budget estimates. The decision to decline all tenders and to enter into direct negotiations in relation to the subject matter of the tender must still be made by a formal resolution of Council to ensure transparency and accountability.

5.1.5. Financial sub-delegations are set out in Council's Schedule of Sub-Delegations, which is available on Council's website.

5.2. Purchasing Procedures

- 5.2.1. Detailed purchasing procedures are contained in Council's *Procurement Procedures and Guidelines* documentation.
- 5.2.2. The procedures outline Council's requirements when procuring goods and/or services on behalf of Council. Different requirements apply, depending on the total value of the supply.
- 5.2.3. All goods and/or services procured on behalf of Council must be procured following these procedures.

5.3. Tendering Procedures

- 5.3.1. Tenders are mandatory for the majority of purchases where the total anticipated expenditure is greater than \$250,000 (GST inclusive). This expenditure threshold could be for a single purchase or contract, or services provided over a number of years. Council may also tender for purchases below this limit.
- 5.3.2. Detailed tendering procedures are contained in Council's *Procurement Procedures and Guidelines* documentation.
- 5.3.3. In accordance with Section 55 of the Act, Council may elect to utilise prescribed entities when procuring good and services which exceed the tender threshold. These include NSWBuy, Local Government Procurement, Procurement Australia or an approved disability employment organisation. Further guidance in relation to these prescribed entities is provided in Council's *Procurement Procedures and Guidelines* documentation.

5.4. Procurement Governance

5.4.1. Ethics and Probity

All Council Officers must comply with the standards of integrity, probity, professional conduct and ethical behaviour established by Council's Code of Conduct, Council's Statement of Business Ethics and Guidelines issued by ICAC.

Council officials must disclose any potential or actual conflict of interest (whether pecuniary or non-pecuniary) in order to protect the public interest and prevent breaches of public trust.

Council has adopted a Statement of Business Ethics which sets out the standards of behaviour that Council expects from its private/public partners.

Probity auditors may be commissioned where deemed appropriate by Council's General Manager (or their delegate), in circumstances where additional professional knowledge, experience or independent recommendation is required.

5.4.2. Fraud and Corruption Principles

Council has an adopted Fraud and Corruption Control Policy. The principal elements of the policy are:

- Preventing fraud at its origin, in particular, implementing effective control structures and procedures that aim to eliminate the prospect of fraud and corruption occurring
- Making all staff, Councillors, contractors, consultants and volunteers aware of their obligation to act ethically and to follow Council's Code of Conduct at all times
- Making all contractors, consultants and those dealing with Council aware of the ethical standards that Council applies and of the ethical standards of others in their dealings with Council
- Committing to a policy of detection, investigation and prosecution of individual cases of fraud and corruption, and
- Respecting the civil rights of individuals and committing to natural justice.

Council has a Fraud and Corruption Control Plan that underpins this policy and details responsibilities of positions within Council. It also outlines steps involved in identifying, investigating, reporting and taking action around fraud and corruption.

The Fraud and Corruption Control Plan and Council's Code of Conduct also outline the policies and procedures implemented by Council to ensure that any allegations and subsequent investigations into fraud are handled confidentially and in accordance with applicable legislation.

5.4.3. Record Keeping

All substantive communications with potential suppliers in respect of procurement and purchasing should be in writing and/or formal minuted meetings. Records for all procurement activities must be kept and recorded in Council's electronic document management system.

5.4.4. Lobbying

Lobbying of Councillors and staff by tenderers or their agents is not permitted and shall result in their disqualification from the quotation or tender process on that occasion. For the purposes of this clause "lobbying" shall include seeking to influence, seeking to obtain support or assistance, urging or persuading.

5.4.5. Gifts and Benefits

Council officers must never seek or accept any payment, gift or benefit intended or likely to influence, or that could be reasonably perceived by an impartial observer as intended or likely to influence, their decision making.

In some circumstances token or nominal gifts may be accepted but only in situations that do not create a sense of obligation on the staff's or Councillors' actions. Where you cannot reasonably refuse or return a gift or benefit of more than nominal value, this must be disclosed to your supervisor and then ensure this is recorded in the Gifts and Benefits Register through the Governance team.

Council's Gifts and Benefits Procedure should be followed at all times. Under no circumstances should a gift of cash, or cash-like gift, be accepted.

5.5. Value For Money

5.5.1. Council resources are to be used efficiently and effectively to procure goods, services and works, and every attempt must be made to contain the costs of the procurement process without compromising any of the procurement principles set out in this Policy.

5.5.2. Value for money is considered to be a combination of product and/or service quality and the whole of life cost which is the most advantageous to Council. Value for money does not necessarily mean the lowest value or price.

5.5.3. In order to promote value for money outcomes, Council will include the following in its procurement assessment:

- Cost-related factors including whole-of-life costs and other transaction costs associated with the purchase of goods and/or services
- non-cost factors such as fitness for purpose, innovation, quality, risk, service, support, work health and safety (WHS), community, environment and sustainability requirements
- Contribution to the advancement of Council priorities, especially those set out in Council's current Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program.

5.6. Strengthening Local Capacity Program

5.6.1. Council's approach to procurement is to support local businesses and suppliers and to support economic activity within the Camden Local Government Area (LGA), where it is efficient to do so, while achieving Council's overall value-for-money objectives, which is also an expectation from our community.

5.6.2. To support local industry and local economic development, Council staff shall apply the following initiatives at all times:

- a) encourage a 'buy local' culture
- b) encourage local suppliers to participate in Council business by registering in Vendor Panel and other means considered appropriate
- c) utilise Vendor Panel Local Supplier Marketplace as a means to access local suppliers
- d) ensure that procurement policies and procedures do not disadvantage local suppliers
- e) encourage use of local suppliers by contractors, whenever goods or services are being sourced from outside the Camden LGA
- f) ensure transparency in Council's procurement practices.

5.6.3. In addition to the initiatives outlined in section 5.6.2, Council will also apply a local capacity factor to support local business and encourage economic business activity for the benefit of the local economy. The local capacity factor will apply to quotations and tenders over \$100,000 (incl. GST).

5.6.4. To be eligible to obtain the local capacity factor, suppliers and/or contractors will be required to have a principal place of business in the Camden LGA or part of their business address (not a PO box) that is located within the Camden LGA.

5.6.5. The assessment criteria will be an evaluation system as follows:

- Award 5% to suppliers located physically within Camden LGA
- Award between 1% to 4% to suppliers who engage sub-contractor firms or material supply firms located physically within Camden LGA
- Award 0% to suppliers located outside Camden LGA who do not use subcontractors and/or material supply firms within the Camden LGA.

The remaining financial and non-financial tender assessment criteria is scored out of 95 points (95%).

5.6.6. Local suppliers who qualify under Council's On-Time Payment Policy will also receive payment within 20 days as part of the small business friendly Council initiative.

5.7. Sustainable Purchasing

5.7.1. Along with quality, cost and social impacts, Council will consider the impact that purchases have on the environment across the entire life of a product or service. Consideration will be given to areas such as:

- Purchasing quantity – Staff are encouraged to only purchase products and services that are needed and only the required quality to reduce unnecessary spending and waste. Staff should also consider repairing, reusing and hiring as an alternative to purchasing.
- Waste – All purchases should consider the waste hierarchy of avoidance (as most preferable) to resource recovery to disposal (as least preferable). This includes consideration across all stages of the product life cycle from inception to end-of-life management. This includes packaging, disposal, ability to be easily recycled, repurpose and product stewardship programs.
- Use of recycled products – Staff should seek products that contain high levels of recycled content as this has a higher sustainability value and requires lower levels of virgin materials.
- Efficient use of resources – Staff should purchase products and services that use lower amounts of energy, water and other resources.
- Pollution – Products should not contain hazardous or toxic substances and/or materials which may negatively impact human health, air, soil or water quality.
- Greenhouse gas emissions – Higher value should be placed on products and services that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Biodiversity and habitat – Products and services that support environmental protection and conservation.

5.8. Modern Slavery

5.8.1. Council must take reasonable steps to ensure that goods and services are not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the *NSW Modern Slavery Act 2018*.

5.8.2. Council staff and its representatives must ensure its operations and supply chains do not cause, involve or contribute to modern slavery. Council must also ensure its suppliers, relevant stakeholders and others with whom we do business respect and share our commitment to minimising the risk of modern slavery.

5.8.3. To ensure that Council takes reasonable steps to avoid engaging suppliers who engage in modern slavery practices, the following measures will be taken:

- Identifying where modern slavery risks exist in Council's supply chain and assessing the degree of those risks
- Engaging with suppliers to identify those which are committed to minimising the risk of modern slavery in their own supply chains and operations
- Undertaking modern slavery risk assessments as part of the procurement process
- Providing training to Council staff to ensure they are aware of what modern slavery is, what Council's modern slavery risks are and how to raise any identified or potential concerns.

5.9. Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

5.9.1. All contractors must provide documented evidence of the safety systems they have in place relevant to the risk associated to the work to be performed. Please refer to the Contractor Safety Management Procedure.

5.9.2. All contractors, designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers, installers and builders of Council must adhere to relevant requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. WHS performance will be monitored and reviewed to ensure continued adherence to legislation and relevant Council policies.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1. General Manager

Council will deal promptly with any concerns or complaints regarding this Policy. Any issues should be directed in writing to the General Manager.

6.2. Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring the objectives of this Policy are realised and ensuring appropriate key performance indicators are in place to promote continuous improvement across Council's Purchasing and Procurement activities.

7. Reporting

7.1. In accordance with Part 3, Division 4 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act), Council will maintain and publish a register of all Council contracts that records key information about each contract Council enters into with the private sector which has or is likely to have a value of \$150,000 (inclusive of GST) or greater. The Contract Register will disclose the contract type, being Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 Contracts.

7.2. Council will also disclose contracts that have been entered into through its Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

8. Evaluation

8.2. The success of this Policy will be measured by:

- No reported breaches of the Policy
- All individuals who are employed by Council having undertaken mandatory procurement training as part of their onboarding program.

9. Review

9.1. This Policy will be reviewed every three years or more frequently as required.

10. Related Materials

10.1. Related Legislation

- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*
- *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW)*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *State Records Act 1998*
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

10.2. Related Policies, Procedures and Other Guidance Material

- Contractor Safety Management Procedure
- Code of Conduct
- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Control Plan
- ICAC Guidelines
- IT Service Provider and Third-Party Supplier Policy
- Procurement Procedures and Guidelines
- Purchase Card Policy
- Purchased Goods Safety Evaluation
- On-Time Payment Policy
- Schedule of Sub-Delegations
- Staff Reimbursement of Council Expenses Procedure
- Record and Information Management Policy
- Record and Information Management Standard
- Tendering Guidelines for NSW Local Government

- Statement of Business Ethics
- Work Health and Safety Policy

Approval and Review	
Responsible Branch	Finance and Property Services
Responsible Manager	Chief Financial Officer
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Version Control				
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1	July 2002	Council	15/167592	Minor
2	26/09/2017	Council	17/305833	Old policy (5.32) rescinded and updated policy (P3.0161.1) adopted
3	11/06/2019	Council	17/305833	Minor - addition of fraud and corruption principles
4	08/10/2019	Council	17/305833	Legislative changes
5	23/06/2020	Council	17/305833	Inclusion of Local Preference
6	08/08/2023	Council	17/305833	Inclusion of Modern Slavery Provisions, Changes to the application of Strengthening Local Capacity Program and other administrative changes to Policy
7	14/06/2024	Governance	17/305833	Conversion to new Policy Template



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