THE BIG KON ON BUY TERRITORY

Jodeen Carney MLA

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The Health Minister has made his feelings clear about the Henderson Government's Buy Territory policy when discussing the contract for aeromedical services in the Territory.

When quizzed whether the contract should go to a local firm the Minister said 'If it's local or not, that's irrelevant'

"Actually, according to the Chief Minister, whether the company is local or not is highly relevant and should be taken into account when awarding Government contracts," says Member for Katherine Willem Westra van Holthe.

It was as Business Minister in the Martin Government that Paul Henderson first announced that under the ‘Buy Territory’ policy, when tenders are assessed, they will be given a 20% weighting based on the level of local business and industry participation opportunities they contain.

Henderson also announced that a new Government Procurement Liaison Officer would be employed to ensure Government is meeting its ‘Buy Territory’ objectives.

Just last year the Chief Minister was urging Territory businesses to access the ‘Buy Territory’ logo and spruiking his Government’s ‘Buy Territory’ website.

"The Chief Minister has to clear the air on this policy," says Mr Westra van Holthe.

"Either he must confirm ‘Buy Territory’ remains the policy and reprimand his Health Minister for undermining that policy.

"Or he should admit ‘Buy Territory’ has been ditched and close the website that is urging Territorians to do something his Government is unwilling to do."

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