NT Government committed to supporting local Businesses

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The Country Liberals Government is committed to supporting local businesses and has introduced a ‘Buy Local Plan’ including a suite of procurement changes specifically designed to assist Northern Territory Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Minister for Business Peter Styles said Opposition Leader Michael Gunner and Labor continue to talk down the Territory at every opportunity.

“The Opposition Leader’s misuse of the CommSec report is another example of his irresponsible behaviour,” Mr Styles said.

“What he failed to tell you was the CommSec report showed the Territory is still performing strongly in a range of indicators, ranking first in construction work and second for economic growth, business investment and unemployment.”

Mr Styles said the Giles Government is listening to the concerns of local businesses and has taken action.

“We have consulted widely over many months with local businesses, industries, associations and other stakeholders and we understand there are some who are in need of some assistance,” Mr Styles said.

“As a result the Country Liberals Government announced major procurement reforms last month helping Territory Enterprises secure a greater percentage of the billions of dollars in government work awarded each year.”

One of the key initiatives included in the ‘Buy Local Plan’ is increasing the minimum weighting in favour of local content and benefits from 20% to 25% in all quotes and tenders which is the highest of any State or Territory Government in Australia.

Other Buy Local measures include:

- Introducing mandatory local involvement in all requests for quotes worth up to $100,000. To support this measure a new term ‘Territory Enterprise’ will be introduced to identify local businesses as ‘An enterprise operating in the Northern Territory, with a significant permanent presence in the NT and employing NT residents.’
- Ensuring local content and benefit commitments included in tender responses are carried through into the contract terms and are monitored throughout.

- Establishing an independent panel of Territorians, the Local Benefit Advisory Panel (LBAP) to review and advise on Buy Local aspects of Tender responses and contracts estimated to be worth more than $5 million.

“As the name suggests, the ‘Buy Local Plan’ is specifically designed to assist local businesses, particularly SMEs and ensure the $3billion spent annually on goods and services by the Territory Government will deliver the greatest benefits for Territory businesses, our families and our economy.

“Only the Country Liberals Government has a plan to secure the Territory’s future and ensure our economy continues to go from strength to strength.”

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