Key elements of the Northern Territory Government’s new Buy Local Plan are now officially in business as the final call goes out for nominations for the new Local Benefit Advisory Panel (LBAP).

The Country Liberals Government announced the major procurement reform initiatives in early December last year aimed at assisting local businesses to secure a greater percentage of the billions of dollars in government work awarded each year.

Chief Minister and Acting Minister for Business Adam Giles said since that time businesses would have experienced immediate improvements in the form of more opportunities to tender and clearer, simpler tender documents but now more benefits will be felt across the Territory business community.

“The increase of the minimum weighting in favour of local content and benefits from 20% to 25% is now in place for all new quotes and tenders across the Northern Territory,” said Mr Giles.

“It is the highest weighting allocated to local content of any State or Territory Government in Australia and demonstrates the Country Liberals Government’s Commitment to supporting local businesses.

“We consulted widely over many months with local businesses, industry, associations and other stakeholders to develop this plan.

“It will 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.”

Other Buy Local measures which will increase the emphasis on how local content is recognised, evaluated and realised 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.

Mr Giles said nominations for LBAP are currently open and will close Sunday 31 January, 2016. “LBAP will enhance the transparency of the procurement process and will ensure the government evaluation teams have access to all relevant information in making procurement decisions,” he said.

“We have received some excellent nominations so far and I would encourage anyone with business or industry knowledge and a long-standing commitment to the Territory who is not Northern Territory Government employee to nominate.”

Up to 20 panel members will be selected and will be expected to abide by confidentiality requirements and strict conflict of interest provisions.

For more information visit www.dob.nt.gov.au/buylocal.

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