



Media Release

Peter Styles

Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Business

NT Government forum a success for local business

23 February 2016

The local business community has turned out in force for the NT Government's Business Plan Information Forum hosted by Deputy Chief Minister Peter Styles at the Michael Long Centre overnight.

More than 110 people listened to the Government's new Business Plan initiatives during the event which aimed to empower local businesses to more effectively access the range of services and support available from government.

Mr Styles said a key element of the evening included outlining the benefits of the Country Liberals Government's Buy Local Plan for Territory businesses and key changes to procurement procedures.

"It was fantastic to see such a large number of business representatives and community members in attendance last night," Mr Styles said.

"This forum was the latest in a series of continuing information sessions I have held in the community on a range of issues impacting Territorians.

"One of the biggest issues concerning local businesses is being given a fair go when it comes to securing contracts or tenders in this highly competitive environment.

"The Country Liberals Government's Buy Local Plan was developed after months of consultation with more than 800 local businesses, industry and other stakeholders and includes a suite of procurement reforms to assist local businesses to earn a greater percentage of the \$3 billion government spending each year.

"Those who attended also enjoyed the opportunity to speak face-to-face with Department of Business officers about what support initiatives are available to them to suit the unique needs of their business.

"Often, hard-working business owners are so busy working *in* their business, it's difficult to find time to work *on* their business and that's what the Country Liberals Government is here to help them do.

"We have listened to the needs of local businesses, we have a plan and we are implementing it."

The key elements of the Buy Local Plan include:

- Mandatory local involvement in all requests for quotes worth up to \$100,000, in addition to existing local content requirements for all tenders above \$100,000.
- Increasing the minimum weighting of local content and benefit from 20% to 25% in all government quotes and tenders.
- Ensuring local content commitments included in tender responses are carried through into the contract terms and are monitored throughout.
- An independent Local Benefit Advisory Panel (LBAP) of Territorians is being established to review and advise on Buy Local aspects of the tender responses and contracts estimated to be worth more than \$5 million. The LBAP is currently being finalised and will be announced in the near future.

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

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