

F5. Panels of Pre-Qualified Suppliers Policy

Policy Objectives

The Shire of Dundas will consider creating a Panel of Pre-Qualified Suppliers ("Panel") when a range of similar goods and services are required to be purchased on a continuing and regular basis.

Part of the consideration of establishing a panel includes:

- there are numerous potential suppliers in the local and regional procurement related market sector(s) that satisfy the test of 'value for money';
- the purchasing activity under the intended Panel is assessed as being of a low to medium risk;
- the Panel will streamline and will improve procurement processes; and
- the Shire has the capability to establish a Panel and manage the risks and achieve the benefits expected of the proposed Panel through a Contract Management Plan.

Establishing and Managing a Panel

If the Shire decides that a Panel is to be created, it will establish the panel in accordance with the Regulations.

Panels will be established for one supply requirement, or a number of similar supply requirements under defined categories. This will be undertaken through an invitation procurement process advertised via a state-wide notice.

Panels may be established for a maximum of three (3) years. The length of time of a Local Panel is decided with the approval of the CEO.

Evaluation criteria will be determined and communicated in the application process by which applications will be assessed and accepted.

In each invitation to apply to become a pre-qualified supplier, the Shire will state the expected number of suppliers it intends to put on the panel.

If a Panel member leaves the Panel, the Shire will consider replacing that organisation with the next ranked supplier that meets/exceeds the requirements in the value for money assessment – subject to that supplier agreeing. The Shire will disclose this approach in the detailed information when establishing the Panel.

A Panel contract arrangement needs to be managed to ensure that the performance of the Panel Contract and the Panel members under the contract are monitored and managed. This will ensure that risks are managed and expected benefits are achieved. A Contract Management Plan should be established that outlines the requirements for the Panel Contract and how it will be managed.

Distributing Work amongst Panel Members

When establishing a Panel of pre-qualified suppliers, the detailed information associated with each invitation to apply to join the Panel will prescribe one of the following as to whether the Shire intends to:

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- obtain quotations from each pre-qualified supplier on the Panel with respect to all discreet purchases; or
- purchase goods and services exclusively from any pre-qualified supplier appointed to that Panel, and under what circumstances; or
- develop a ranking system for selection to the Panel, with work awarded in accordance with the Regulations.
- In considering the distribution of work among Panel members, the detailed information will also prescribe whether:
 - each Panel member will have the opportunity to bid for each item of work under the Panel, with pre-determined evaluation criteria forming part of the invitation to quote to assess the suitability of the supplier for particular items of work. Contracts under the pre-qualified panel will be awarded on the basis of value for money in every instance; or
 - work will be awarded on a ranked basis, which is to be stipulated in the detailed information set out when establishing the Panel. The Shire will invite the highest ranked Panel member, who is to give written notice as to whether to accept the offer for the work to be undertaken. Should the offer be declined, an invitation to the next ranked Panel member is to be made and so forth until a Panel member accepts a Contract. Should the list of Panel members invited be exhausted with no Panel member accepting the offer to provide goods/services under the Panel, the Shire may then invite suppliers that are not pre-qualified under the Panel, in accordance with the Purchasing Thresholds stated in the purchasing policy. When a ranking system is established, the Panel will not operate for a period exceeding 12 months.

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