

F3. Purchasing Policy

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Purchasing Statement

The Shire of Dundas is committed to applying the objectives, principles and practices outlined in this Policy, to all purchasing activity and to ensuring alignment with the Shire's strategic and operational objectives.

1.0 Objectives

The Shire's purchasing activities will:

- (a) Achieve best value for money that considers sustainable benefits, such as; environmental, social and local economic factors;
- (b) Foster economic development by maximising participation of local businesses in the delivery of goods and services;
- (c) Use consistent, efficient and accountable purchasing processes and decision-making, including; competitive quotation processes, assessment of best value for money and sustainable procurement outcomes for all purchasing activity, including tender exempt arrangements;
- (d) Apply fair and equitable competitive purchasing processes that engage potential suppliers impartially, honestly and consistently;
- (e) Commit to probity and integrity, including the avoidance of bias and of perceived and actual conflicts of interest;
- (f) Comply with the *Local Government Act 1995*, *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, other relevant legislation, Codes of Practice, Standards and the Shire's Policies and procedures;
- (g) Ensure purchasing outcomes contribute to efficiencies (time and resources) for the Shire of Dundas
- (h) Identify and manage risks arising from purchasing processes and purchasing outcomes in accordance with the Shire's Risk Management framework;
- (i) Ensure records evidence purchasing activities in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000* and the Shire's Record Keeping Plan;
- (j) Ensure confidentiality that protects commercial-in-confidence information and only releases information where appropriately approved.

2.0 Ethics & Integrity

The Shire's Code of Conduct applies when undertaking purchasing activities and decision making, requiring Council Members and employees to always observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity and act in an honest and professional manner.

3.0 Value for Money

The Shire will apply value for money principles in critically assessing purchasing decisions and acknowledges that the lowest price may not always be the most advantageous.

Value for money assessment will consider:

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- (a) All relevant Total Costs of Ownership (TCO) and benefits including; transaction costs associated with acquisition, delivery, distribution, and other costs such as, but not limited to; holding costs, consumables, deployment, training, maintenance and disposal;
- (b) The technical merits of the goods or services being offered in terms of compliance with specifications, contractual terms and conditions and any relevant methods of assuring quality. This includes but is not limited to an assessment of compliances, the supplier's resource availability, capacity and capability, value-adds offered, warranties, guarantees, repair and replacement policies and response times, ease of inspection and maintenance, ease of after sales service, ease of communications, etc.
- (c) The supplier's financial viability and capacity to supply without the risk of default, including the competency of the prospective suppliers in terms of managerial and technical capabilities and compliance history;
- (d) A strong element of competition by obtaining a sufficient number of competitive quotations consistent with this Policy, where practicable;
- (e) The safety requirements and standards associated with both the product design and the specification offered by suppliers and the evaluation of risk arising from the supply, operation and maintenance;
- (f) The environmental, economic and social benefits arising from the goods, services or works required, including consideration of these benefits in regard to the supplier's operations, in accordance with this Policy and any other relevant Shire Policy including Local Economic Benefit; and
- (g) Analysis and management of risks and opportunities that may be associated with the purchasing activity, potential supplier/s and the goods or services required.

4.0 Limits of Authority

The following staff members are authorised to sign purchase orders on behalf of the Shire, with limitations as indicated:

Officer:	Limit of Authority:
Chief Executive Officer	As per the adopted annual budget, or by decision of Council for items not included in the budget, relating to expenditure within the organisation.
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Up to and including \$50,000 as per the adopted annual budget, or by decision of Council for items not included in the budget, relating to expenditure within the relevant department.
Manager of Works	Up to and including \$50,000 as per the adopted annual budget, or by decision of Council for items not included in the budget, relating to expenditure within the relevant department.
Projects Officer	Up to and including \$10,000 per the adopted annual budget, or by decision of Council for items not included in the budget, relating to expenditure within the relevant department.

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Senior Finance & Admin Officer	Up to and including \$10,000 as per the adopted budget. In the absence of other senior staff, purchase orders may be signed with the verbal approval of other senior officers listed in this section, provided that the purchase order is counter signed by that senior officer upon their return.
Community & Tourism Coordinator	Up to and including \$2,000 as per the adopted budget.
IGA Manager	Up to and including \$2,000 as per the adopted budget.

Note: Any purchase order above \$60,000, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer will process the purchase order in the Synergy system (on behalf of the CEO) for the CEO's approval.

5.0 Purchasing Thresholds and Practices

The Shire will apply reasonable and consistent methodologies to assess and determine Purchasing Values, which ensure:

- (a) The appropriate purchasing threshold and practice is applied in all purchasing activities; and
- (b) Wherever possible, purchasing activity for the same category of supply is aggregated into single contract arrangements to achieve best value and efficiency in future purchasing activities where the requirements can be provided by a single supplier.

A **category of supply** can be defined as groupings of similar goods or services with common: supply and demand drivers; market characteristics; or suppliers.

4. Strategic Purchasing Value Assessments

The Shire will periodically review recent past purchasing activity across its operations to identify categories of supply for which the Shire will have continuing need, and which can be aggregated into single contract arrangements in order to achieve best value for money and efficiency in future purchasing activity.

The assessment of aggregated expenditure for the same category of supply capable of being supplied by a single supplier will determine the Purchasing Value threshold applicable to future purchasing activity.

5. Individual Purchasing Value Assessments

In any case, where there is no relevant current contract, each purchasing activity is to assess the Purchasing Value based upon the following considerations:

- (a) Exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST); and
- (b) The estimated total expenditure for the proposed supply including the value of all contract extension options and where applicable, the total cost of ownership considerations.
- (c) The appropriate length of a contract is to be determined based on market volatility, ongoing nature of supply, historical purchasing evidence and estimated future purchasing requirements.

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(d) Requirements must not be split to avoid purchasing or tendering thresholds [F&G Reg. 12].

The calculated estimated Purchasing Value will determine the applicable threshold and purchasing practice to be undertaken.

6. Table of Purchasing Thresholds and Practices

6.1 Supplier Order of Priority

The Shire will consider and apply, where applicable, the following Supplier Order of Priority:

Priority 1: Existing Prequalified Supplier Panel or other Contract

Current contracts, including a Panel of Prequalified Suppliers or contracted supplier, must be used where the Shire's supply requirements can be met through the existing contract.

If the Shire does not have a current contract relevant to the required supply, then a relevant WALGA PSA can be considered.

Priority 2: Local Suppliers

Where the Purchasing Value does not exceed the tender threshold and a relevant local supplier is capable of providing the required supply within the timeframe required, the Shire will wherever possible ensure quotations are obtained from local suppliers permanently located within the Shire as a first priority, and those permanently located within surrounding Esperance - Goldfields region as the second priority.

If no relevant local supplier is available, then a relevant WALGA PSA may be used.

Priority 3: Tender Exempt - WALGA Preferred Supplier Arrangement (PSA)

Use a relevant WALGA PSA regardless of whether or not the Purchasing Value will exceed the tender threshold.

However, if a relevant PSA exists but an alternative supplier is considered to provide best value, then the CEO, or an officer authorised by the CEO, must approve the alternative supplier. Reasons for not using a PSA may include:

- i. Local supplier availability (that are not within the PSA); or,

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- ii. Social procurement – preference to use Aboriginal business or Disability Enterprise.

If no relevant WALGA PSA is available, then a relevant State Government CUA may be used.

Priority 4: Tender Exempt - WA State Government Common Use Arrangement (CUA)

Use a relevant CUA regardless of whether or not the Purchasing Value will exceed the tender threshold.

However, if a relevant CUA exists, but an alternative supplier is considered to provide best value for money, then the proposed alternative supplier must be approved by the CEO, or an officer authorised by the CEO.

If no relevant CUA is available, then a Tender Exempt [F&G Reg.11(2)] arrangement may be used.

Priority 5: Other Tender Exempt arrangement [F&G Reg. 11(2)]

Regardless of whether or not the Purchasing Value will exceed the tender threshold, the Shire will investigate and seek quotations from tender exempt suppliers and will specifically ensure that wherever possible quotations are obtained from a WA Disability Enterprise and / or an Aboriginal Owned Business that is capable of providing the required supply.

Priority 6: Other Suppliers

Where there is no relevant existing contract or tender exempt arrangement available, purchasing activity from any other supplier is to be in accordance with relevant Purchasing Value Threshold and Purchasing Practice specified in the table below.

6.2 Purchasing Practice Purchasing Value Thresholds

The Purchasing Value, assessed in accordance with item 4. Strategic Purchasing Value Assessments determines the Purchasing Practice to be applied to the Shire's purchasing activities.

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Purchase Value Threshold (<i>ex GST</i>)	Purchasing Practice
Up to \$5,000 (<i>ex GST</i>)	Obtain at least one (1) verbal or written quotation from a suitable supplier in accordance with the Supplier Order of Priority detailed in clause 6.1 The purchasing decision is to be evidenced in accordance with the Shire's Record Keeping Plan.
From \$5,001 and up to \$20,000 (<i>ex GST</i>)	Seek at least three (3) verbal or written quotations from suitable suppliers in accordance with the Supplier Order of Priority detailed in clause 6.1 If purchasing from a WALGA PSA, CUA or other tender exempt arrangement, a minimum of one (1) written quotation is to be obtained. The purchasing decision is to be based upon assessment of the suppliers response to: • a brief outline of the specified requirement for the goods; services or works required; and • Value for Money criteria, not necessarily the lowest price.
From \$20,001 and up to \$50,000 (<i>ex GST</i>)	Seek at least three (3) written quotations from suitable suppliers in accordance with the Supplier Order of Priority detailed in clause 1.4.2(1) except if purchasing from a WALGA PSA, CUA or other tender exempt arrangement, where a minimum of one (1) written quotation is to be obtained. The purchasing decision is to be based upon assessment of the suppliers' responses to: • a brief outline of the specified requirement for the goods; services or works required; and • Value for Money criteria, not necessarily the lowest quote.
From \$50,001 and up to \$250,000 (<i>ex GST</i>)	Seek at least three (3) written responses from suppliers by invitation under a formal Request for Quotation in accordance with the Supplier Order of Priority detailed in clause 1.4.2(1). The purchasing decision is to be based upon assessment of the suppliers response to: • a detailed written specification for the goods, services or works required; and • pre-determined selection criteria that assesses all best and sustainable value considerations.

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Purchase Value Threshold (<i>ex GST</i>)	Purchasing Practice
Over \$250,000 (<i>ex GST</i>)	Tender Exempt arrangements (i.e. WALGA PSA, CUA or other tender exemption under <i>F&G Reg.11(2)</i>) require at least three (3) written responses from suppliers by invitation under a formal Request for Quotation in accordance with the Supplier Order of Priority detailed in clause 1.4.2(1). <u>OR</u> Public Tender undertaken in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> and relevant Shire's Policy and procedures. The Tender Exempt or Public Tender purchasing decision is to be based on the suppliers response to: • A detailed specification; and • Pre-determined selection criteria that assesses all best and sustainable value considerations.
Emergency Purchases (<i>Within Budget</i>) Refer to Clause 1.4.3	Where goods or services are required for an emergency response and are within scope of an established Panel of Pre-qualified Supplier or existing contract, the emergency supply must be obtained from the Panel or existing contract using relevant unallocated budgeted funds. If there is no existing Panel or contract, then clause 1.4.2(1) Supplier Order of Priority will apply wherever practicable. However, where due to the urgency of the situation; a contracted or tender exempt supplier is unable to provide the emergency supply <u>OR</u> compliance with this Purchasing Policy would cause unreasonable delay, the supply may be obtained from any supplier capable of providing the emergency supply. However, an emergency supply is only to be obtained to the extent necessary to facilitate the urgent emergency response and must be subject to due consideration of best value and sustainable practice.
Emergency Purchases (<i>No budget allocation available</i>) Refer for Clause 1.4.3	Where no relevant budget allocation is available for an emergency purchasing activity then, in accordance with s.6.8 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, the President must authorise, in writing, the necessary budget adjustment prior to the expense being incurred. The CEO is responsible for ensuring that an authorised emergency expenditure under s.6.8 is reported to the next ordinary Council Meeting.

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Purchase Value Threshold (ex GST)	Purchasing Practice
	The Purchasing Practices prescribed for Emergency Purchases (within budget) above, then apply.
LGIS Services Section 9.58(6)(b) Local Government Act	The suite of LGIS insurances are established in accordance with s.9.58(6)(b) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> and are provided as part of a mutual, where WALGA Member Local Governments are the owners of LGIS. Therefore, obtaining LGIS insurance services is available as a member-base service and is not defined as a purchasing activity subject to this Policy. Should Council resolve to seek quotations from alternative insurance suppliers, compliance with this Policy is required.
Evidence of Decision and Record Keeping	The rationale for procurement decisions including, where applicable, policy non-compliance must be evidenced using the Evaluation Report template and retained in accordance with the Shire Record Keeping Plan.

6.3 Emergency Purchases

Emergency purchases are defined as the supply of goods or services associated with:

- (a) A local emergency and the expenditure is required (within existing budget allocations) to respond to an imminent risk to public safety, or to protect or make safe property or infrastructure assets; OR
- (b) A local emergency and the expenditure is required (with no relevant available budget allocation) to respond to an imminent risk to public safety, or to protect or make safe property or infrastructure assets in accordance with s.6.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Functions and General Regulation 11(2)(a); OR
- (c) A State of Emergency declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and therefore, Functions and General Regulations 11(2)(aa), (ja) and (3) apply to vary the application of this policy.

Time constraints, administrative omissions and errors do not qualify for definition as an emergency purchase. Instead, every effort must be made to research and anticipate purchasing requirements in advance and to allow sufficient time for planning and scoping proposed purchases and to then obtain quotes or tenders, as applicable.

6.4 Inviting Tenders though not required to do so

The Shire may determine to invite Public Tenders, despite the estimated Purchase Value being less than the \$250,000 prescribed tender threshold, but only where an assessment determines that the purchasing requirement cannot be met through a tender exempt arrangement and the use of a public tender process will enhance; value for money, efficiency, risk mitigation and sustainable procurement benefits.

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In such cases, the tender process must comply with the legislative requirements and the Shire's tendering procedures [F&G Reg.13].

6.4.1 Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest (EOI) will be considered as a prerequisite to a tender process [F&G Reg.21] where the required supply evidences one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) Unable to sufficiently scope or specify the requirement;
- (b) There is significant variability for how the requirement may be met;
- (c) There is potential for suppliers to offer unique solutions and / or multiple options for how the purchasing requirement may be obtained, specified, created or delivered;
- (d) Subject to a creative element; or
- (e) Provides a procurement methodology that allows for the assessment of a significant number of potential tenderers leading to a shortlisting process based on non-price assessment.

All EOI processes will be based upon qualitative and other non-price information only.

6.5 Unique Nature of Supply (Sole Supplier)

An arrangement with a supplier based on the unique nature of the goods or services required or for any other reason, where it is unlikely that there is more than one potential supplier may only be approved where the:

- (a) purchasing value is estimated to be over \$5,000; and
- (b) purchasing requirement has been documented in a detailed specification; and
- (c) specification has been extensively market tested and only one potential supplier has been identified as being capable of meeting the specified purchase requirement; and
- (d) market testing process and outcomes of supplier assessments have been evidenced in records, inclusive of a rationale for why the supply is determined as unique and why quotations / tenders cannot be sourced through more than one potential supplier.

An arrangement of this nature will only be approved for a period not exceeding one (1) year. For any continuing purchasing requirement, the approval must be re-assessed before expiry, to evidence that only one potential supplier still genuinely exists.

6.5 Anti-Avoidance

The Shire will not conduct multiple purchasing activities with the intent (inadvertent or otherwise) of "splitting" the purchase value or the contract value, so that the effect is to avoid a particular purchasing threshold or the need to call a Public Tender. This includes the creation of two or more contracts or creating multiple purchase order transactions of a similar nature.

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6.6 Contract Renewals, Extensions and Variations

Where a contract has been entered into as the result of a publicly invited tender process, then *Functions and General Regulation 21A* applies.

For any other contract, the contract must not be varied unless

- (a) The variation is necessary in order for the goods or services to be supplied and does not change the scope of the contract; or
- (b) The variation is a renewal or extension of the term of the contract where the extension or renewal options were included in the original contract.

Upon expiry of the original contract, and after any options for renewal or extension included in the original contract have been exercised, the Shire is required to review the purchasing requirements and commence a new competitive purchasing process in accordance with this Policy.

7. Local Economic Benefit

The Shire promotes economic development through the encouragement of competitive participation in the delivery of goods and services by local suppliers permanently located within its District first, and secondly, those permanently located within its broader region. As much as practicable, the Shire will:

- (a) consider buying practices, procedures and specifications that encourage the inclusion of local businesses and the employment of local residents;
- (b) consider indirect benefits that have flow on benefits for local suppliers (i.e. servicing and support);
- (c) ensure that procurement plans, and analysis is undertaken prior to develop Requests to understand local business capability and local content availability where components of goods or services may be sourced from within the District for inclusion in selection criteria;
- (d) explore the capability of local businesses to meet requirements and ensure that Requests for Quotation and Tenders are designed to accommodate the capabilities of local businesses;
- (e) avoid bias in the design and specifications for Requests for Quotation and Tenders – all Requests must be structured to encourage local businesses to bid;
- (f) consider the adoption of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within contractual documentation that require successful Contractors to increase the number of employees from the District first; and
- (g) provide adequate and consistent information to local suppliers.

To this extent, a weighted qualitative criterion will be included in the selection criteria for Requests for Quotation and Tenders where suppliers are located within the boundaries of the Shire or substantially demonstrate a benefit or contribution to the local economy.

The Shire has adopted a Regional Price Preference Policy, which will be applied when undertaking all purchasing activities.

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8. Socially Sustainable Procurement

The Shire will support the purchasing of requirements from socially sustainable suppliers such as Australian Disability Enterprises and Aboriginal businesses wherever a value for money assessment demonstrates benefit towards achieving the Shire's strategic and operational objectives.

A qualitative weighting will be used in the evaluation of Requests for Quotes and Tenders to provide advantages to socially sustainable suppliers in instances where the below tender exemptions are not exercised.

(1) Aboriginal Businesses

Functions and General Regulation 11(2)(h) provides a tender exemption if the goods or services are supplied by a person on the Aboriginal Business Directory WA published by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, or Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Office Limited (trading as Supply Nation), where the consideration under contract is \$250,000 or less, or worth \$250,000 or less.

The Shire will first consider undertaking a quotation process with other suppliers (which may include other registered Aboriginal Businesses as noted in *F&G Reg.11(2)(h)*) to determine overall value for money for the Shire

Where the Shire makes a determination to contract directly with an Aboriginal Business for any amount up to and including \$250,000 (ex GST), it must be satisfied through alternative means that the offer truly represents value for money.

If the contract value exceeds \$50,000 (ex GST), a formal Request for Quotation will be issued to the relevant Aboriginal business. The rationale for making the purchasing decision must be recorded in accordance with the Shire's Record Keeping Plan.

(2) Australian Disability Enterprises

Functions and General Regulation 11(2)(i) provides a tender exemption if the goods or services are supplied by an Australian Disability Enterprise.

The Shire's will first consider undertaking a quotation process with other suppliers (which may include other Australian Disability Enterprises) to determine overall value for money for the Shire's

Where the Shire decides to contract directly with an Australian Disability Enterprise for any amount, including an amount over the Tender threshold of \$250,000 (ex GST), it must be satisfied through alternative means that the offer truly represents value for money.

If the contract value exceeds \$50,000 (ex GST), a formal Request for Quotation will be issued to the relevant Aboriginal business. The rationale for making the purchasing decision must be recorded in accordance with the Shire's Record Keeping Plan.

9. Record Keeping

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All Local Government purchasing activity, communications and transactions must be evidenced and retained as local government records in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000* and the Shire's Record Keeping Plan.

In addition, the Shire must consider and will include in each contract for the provision of works or services, the contractor's obligations for creating, maintaining and where necessary the transferral of records to the Shire relevant to the performance of the contract.

Purchasing Policy Non-Compliance

The Purchasing Policy is mandated under the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 11A of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996* and therefore the policy forms part of the legislative framework in which the Local Government is required to conduct business.

Where legislative or policy compliance is not reasonably able to be achieved, records must evidence the rationale and decision making processes that substantiate the non-compliance.

Purchasing activities are subject to internal and external financial and performance audits, which examine compliance with legislative requirements and the Shire's policies and procedures.

If non-compliance with; legislation, this Purchasing Policy or the Code of Conduct, is identified it must be reported to the Chief Executive Officer.

A failure to comply with legislation or policy requirements, including compliance with the Code of Conduct when undertaking purchasing activities, may be subject to investigation, with findings to be considered in context of the responsible person's training, experience, seniority and reasonable expectations for performance of their role.

Where a breach is substantiated it may be treated as:

- (a) an opportunity for additional training to be provided;
- (b) a disciplinary matter, which may or may not be subject to reporting requirements under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*; or
- (c) where the breach is also identified as potentially serious misconduct, the matter will be reported in accordance with the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*.

Document Control Box			
Document Responsibilities:			
Owner:	DCEO	Owner Business Unit:	DCEO
Reviewer:	DCEO	Decision Maker:	Council
Compliance Requirements:			
Legislation:	s.3.57 of the Local Government Act 1995 Part 4 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996		
Organisational:	Record Keeping Plan.		

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	Delegations Register. Operational Procedure – Quotations Operational Procedure – RFQs and RFTs Operational Procedure – Purchasing Authority and Purchase Orders						
Document Management:							
Risk Rating:	High	Review Frequency:	Annual	Next Due:	2026	Records Ref:	CM.PO.1
Version #	Decision Reference:		Synopsis:				
1.	February 2025 OCM		Purchasing Authority Table Inserted Staff Roles Updated				
2.							

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Policy Reviewed February 2025