



Purchasing Policy

Responsible Officer

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Objective

The Objectives of this policy are to:

- Provide compliance with the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) and the Local Government Act (Functions and General) Regulations 1996 (the Regulations).
- Deliver a best practice, approach and procedures to internal purchasing for the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Ensure consistency for all purchasing activities that integrates within all the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands operational areas.
- Ensure openness, transparency, fairness and equity through the purchasing process to all potential suppliers
- Undertake procurement processes that ensure value for money for the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands by delivering the most advantageous outcome possible
- Ensure compliance with the State Records Act 2000

Scope

The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands (the Shire) is committed to setting up efficient, effective, economical and sustainable procedures in all purchasing activities. This Policy applies to all purchasing activities undertaken by the Shire's officers.

Policy

1. Purchasing Requirements

1.1 Legislative / Regulatory Requirements

The requirements that must be complied with by the Shire, including purchasing thresholds and processes, are prescribed within the Regulations, the policy and associated purchasing procedures in effect at the Shire.

1.2 Purchasing Thresholds

Where the value of procurement (excluding GST) for the value of the contract over the full contract period (including options to extend) is, or is expected to be:

Amount of Purchase	Model Policy
<i>Up to \$20,000</i>	<i>Direct purchase from suppliers, requiring only verbal quotations.</i>
<i>\$20,001 - \$50,000</i>	<i>Seek written quotations.</i>
<i>\$50,001 - \$149,999</i>	<i>Request at least three written quotations containing price and specification of goods and services (with procurement decision based on all value for money considerations).</i>
<i>\$150,000 and above</i>	<i>Conduct a public tender where an exemption under section 1.3 of this policy does not apply</i>

Where it is considered beneficial, tenders may be called in lieu of seeking quotations for purchases under the \$150,000 threshold (excluding GST). If a decision is made to seek public tenders for Contracts of less than \$150,000, a Request for Tender process that entails all the procedures for tendering must be followed in full.

Up to \$20,000

Where the value of procurement of goods or services does not exceed \$20,000, purchase on the basis of at least two verbal quotations is permitted. However it is recommended to use professional discretion and occasionally undertake market testing with a greater number or more formal forms of quotation to ensure best value is maintained.

This purchasing method is suitable where the purchase is relatively small and low risk.

The general principles for obtaining verbal quotations are:

- Ensure that the requirement/specification is clearly understood by the Shire employee seeking quotations.
- Ensure that the requirement is clearly, accurately and consistently communicated to each of the suppliers being invited to quote.
- Read back the details to the Supplier contact person to confirm their accuracy.
- Written notes detailing each verbal quotation must be recorded.

\$20,001 to \$50,000

This category is for the procurement of goods or services where the value of such procurement ranges between \$20,001 and \$50,000.

Written quotations containing price and a sufficient amount of information relating to the specification of goods or services being purchased are to be sought. Where this is not practical, e.g. due to limited suppliers, it must be noted through records relating to the process.

The responsible officer is expected to demonstrate due diligence seeking quotes and to comply with any record keeping and audit requirements.

\$50,001 to \$149,999

For the procurement of goods or services where the value exceeds \$50,001 but is less than \$149,999, it is required to seek at least three written quotations containing price and a sufficient amount of information relating to the specification of goods and services being purchased.

For this procurement range, the selection should not be based on price alone, and it is strongly recommended to consider some of the qualitative factors such as quality, stock availability, accreditation, time for completion or delivery, warranty conditions, technology, maintenance requirements, organisation's capability, previous relevant experience and any other relevant factors as part of the assessment of the quote.

\$150,000 and above

For the procurement of goods or services where the value is or exceeds \$150,000 a public tender is to be conducted unless a tender exemption under Section 1.3 of this policy exists. Please note that three written quotations are still encouraged to be obtained even when purchasing through the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or a State Government Common Use Arrangement to ensure best value for money.

1.3 Tendering Exemptions

An exemption to publicly invite tenders may apply in the following instances:

- The purchase is obtained from a pre-qualified supplier under the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government Common Use Arrangement
- The purchase is of a unique nature with a sole source of supply
- The purchase is to be obtained from expenditure authorised in an emergency

- Any of the other exclusions under Regulation 11 of the Regulations apply.

1.4 Approval Limits

That the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Manager of Works and Services and Building Project Manager have authority to sign purchase orders within their relevant area of responsibility, as follows:

Officer	Limit of Authority for Purchases
Chief Executive Officer	Unlimited
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	\$20,000
Manager of Works and Services	\$20,000
Building Project Manager	\$20,000

2. Ethics and Integrity

All officers and employees of the Shire shall observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity in undertaking purchasing activity and act in an honest and professional manner that supports the standing of the Shire.

The following principles, standards and behaviours must be observed and enforced through all stages of the purchasing process to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all parties:

- Full accountability shall be taken for all purchasing decisions and the efficient, effective and proper expenditure of public monies based on achieving value for money;
- All purchasing practices shall comply with relevant legislation, regulations, and requirements consistent with the Shire's policies and code of conduct;
- Purchasing is to be undertaken on a competitive basis in which all potential suppliers are treated impartially, honestly and consistently;
- All processes, evaluations and decisions shall be transparent, free from bias and fully documented in accordance with applicable policies and audit requirements;
- Any actual or perceived conflicts of interest are to be identified, disclosed and appropriately managed; and
- Any information provided to the Shire by a supplier shall be treated as commercial-in-confidence and should not be released unless authorised by the supplier or relevant legislation.

3. Value for Money

Value for money is an overarching principle governing purchasing that allows the best possible outcome to be achieved for the Shire. It is important to note that compliance with the specification is more important than obtaining the lowest

price, particularly taking into account user requirements, suitability for the coastal environment, quality standards, sustainability, whole of life cycle costing, and service benchmarks.

An assessment of the best value for money outcome for any purchasing should consider:

- All relevant whole-of-life costs and benefits; whole of life cycle costs (for goods) and whole of contract life costs (for services) including transaction costs associated with acquisition, delivery, distribution, as well as other costs such as but not limited to holding costs, consumables, deployment, maintenance and disposal.
- 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;
- Financial viability and capacity to supply without risk of default. (Competency of the prospective suppliers in terms of managerial and technical capabilities and compliance history);
- A strong element of competition in the allocation of orders or the awarding of contracts. This is achieved by obtaining a sufficient number of competitive quotations wherever practicable.

Where a higher priced conforming offer is recommended, there should be clear and demonstrable benefits over and above the lowest total priced, conforming offer.

4. Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable Procurement is defined as the procurement of goods and services that have less environmental and social impacts than competing products and services.

The Shire is committed to sustainable procurement and where appropriate shall endeavour to design quotations and tenders to provide an advantage to goods, services and/or processes that minimise environmental and negative social impacts. Sustainable considerations must be balanced against value for money outcomes.

Practically, sustainable procurement means the Shire shall endeavour at all times to identify and procure products and services that:

- Have been determined as necessary;

- Demonstrate environmental best practice in energy efficiency / and or consumption which can be demonstrated through suitable rating systems and eco-labelling.
- Demonstrate environmental best practice in water efficiency.
- Are environmentally sound in manufacture, use, and disposal with a specific preference for products made using the minimum amount of raw materials from a sustainable resource, that are free of toxic or polluting materials and that consume minimal energy during the production stage;
- Products that can be refurbished, reused, recycled or reclaimed shall be given priority, and those that are designed for ease of recycling, re-manufacture or otherwise to minimise waste.
- For motor vehicles – select vehicles featuring the highest fuel efficiency available, based on vehicle type and within the designated price range;
- For new buildings and refurbishments – where available use renewable energy and technologies.

5. Localised Purchasing

As much as practicable, the Shire must:

- where appropriate, consider buying practices, procedures and specifications that do not unfairly disadvantage local businesses;
- consider indirect benefits that have flow on benefits for local suppliers (i.e. servicing and support);
- ensure that procurement plans address local business capability and local content;
- 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;
- avoid bias in the design and specifications for Requests for Quotation and Tenders – all Requests must be structured to encourage local businesses to bid; and
- Provide adequate and consistent information to potential suppliers.

To this extent, a qualitative weighting may be afforded in the evaluation of quotes and tenders where suppliers are located within the boundaries of the Shire, or substantially demonstrate a benefit or contribution to the local economy.

Relevant Legislation/Local Law

- Local Government Act 1995
- Local Government Act (Financial Management) Amended Regulations 2015
- Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996

- Corruption Crime and Misconduct Act 2003
- State Records Act 2000
- Code of Conduct

Office Use Only				
Relevant Delegations				
Council Adoption	Date	29/3/2017	Resolution #	10.4/A1
Reviewed/Modified	Date	8/11/2017	Resolution #	1117/09
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