



## **LOCAL PARTICIPATION POLICY**

### **Objectives:**

1. To provide a framework to ensure Chamber members and business generally in Broome receive optimum benefit from development projects in and around Broome
2. To provide a policy position from the Broome Chamber of Commerce & Industry that can be disseminated to organisations seeking to undertake significant projects, particularly capital works projects, in Broome
3. An agreed position that can be used as a basis for lobbying government.

### **Background**

Western Australia is experiencing an unprecedented surge in resources and energy development. The Kimberley region is central to this development and Broome as the business hub of the Kimberley is well placed to contribute to this development. With \$billions worth of projects planned or under construction, a unique opportunity exists to enhance Broome's industrial and service base with flow on effects to hospitality, retail and tourism.

The Broome Chamber of Commerce & Industry is committed to promoting the business and services available locally and ensuring Broome receives a long-term social and economic benefit from planned investment whilst maintaining its unique historical and social character.

This policy promotes full, fair and reasonable opportunity for optimum local industry participation in all projects. Actively pursuing this objective requires a number of proactive strategies from businesses including but not limited to:

- Utilisation of the Broome Chamber of Commerce & Industry in identifying local business capacity and opportunities. Utilise Kim Biz and other appropriate resources to source local inputs.

- Development and implementation of a Local Industry Participation Program for large projects. The proponent should identify the use of local suppliers and what steps will be undertaken to enhance local business capacity to supply.

### **Contracts**

- Provision of early and ongoing communication of needs. Where formal tenders will form part of a procurement process, full detailed briefings should be provided. Tenders should be developed in such a way that does not disadvantage local suppliers and use only ADRs.
- Unbundling of contracts into smaller parcels that are within the capabilities of local business to fulfil.
- Assisting local business in sourcing the finance necessary to upgrade their capacity to meet contractual requirements.

### **Staffing**

- Identification of ongoing labour and skill needs and development of a plan to maximise local engagement and satisfy training and development needs.
- Facilitate the development of local capacity through sharing of knowledge and skills and the development of alliances.
- Requiring sub contractors to facilitate local employment and skills development.
- Recognising that indigenous Australians comprise almost 50% of the Kimberley population, any major project must have a strategy for providing employment and training opportunities that have measurable outcomes.

### **Sub contractors**

- Requiring sub contractors to demonstrate experience in working with local firms and developing their capacity.

### **Procurement**

- Preference in procurement decisions and awarding of tenders to local suppliers or those that include significant local content.
- A local procurement presence in Broome to provide a direct line of communication between project proponents and local business to facilitate a better understanding of local capabilities and development of future capacity.

### **Social Licence**

A social licence to operate is critical for any activity in Broome. Such a licence is earned by acquiring free, prior and informed consent from local communities. At a project level, the social licence is intimately tied to

the beliefs, perceptions and opinions held by the local population and other stakeholders involved in the project. Historical, environmental and social values are deeply held in the Broome community and projects must take due regard of the diversity of local opinion.

Once obtained, vigilance through monitoring and open reporting is required to maintain that social licence.

### **Government**

Government also has a role to play in ensuring Broome has the capacity to meet future business demand whilst maintaining a positive social and economic environment.

- Invest in infrastructure that will promote business growth, investment and innovation.
- Development of local skills through funding of training programs and support to local employers to employ and train staff.
- Labour migration programs should not unduly hinder by red tape or unnecessary qualifications. This necessitates the removal of the current skills assessment process from the temporary migration program and the reversal of narrowing occupations classified under Subclass 457 visas.
- A State infrastructure plan must ensure the appropriate prioritisation of projects, and provide certainty around future infrastructure projects that will be undertaken in the State. Meeting the Kimberley's infrastructure needs will assist industry compete for local content opportunities. In Broome, specific attention needs to be on transport facilities in particular the port and airport as critical access points.
- The Broome Shire Council as the relevant local government authority has its own local procurement policy, which should be consulted by organisations seeking to do business with that body.

*This information reflects the policy of the Broome Chamber of Commerce & Industry at the time of publication. Organisations seeking to develop projects in Broome and surrounds should seek discussions with the chamber at the earliest possible stage of project planning.*