

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Maley to the Minister for Business and Jobs:

**Value for Territory Assessment Framework**

- 1. What work has been undertaken within the Value for Territory Assessment Framework to ensure local content is increased?**

The Value for Territory Assessment Framework (VFTAF) ensures all local benefit contributions from suppliers are appropriately considered in the assessment process, allocating a minimum 30% weighting for local content criterion.

- 2. What is the current assessment criteria within the Value for Territory Assessment Framework?**

The following criteria are included in the Tender Document Online (TDO) template generating tool:

- Local Content
- Past Performance
- Capacity
- Timeliness
- Innovation
- Scope Specific
- Price

The VFTAF defines the sub-elements of the local content criterion as outlined in response 1.

- a. When was the last time the assessment criteria was reviewed?**

The default assessment criteria were reviewed throughout the development of the VFTAF (2019-2021).

- b. What changes occurred as result of the last review?**

The default assessment criteria were reviewed throughout the development of the VFTAF (2019-2021). Changes were made to the way that Local content is considered using sub-weightings, allocating a minimum 30% weighting for local content criterion and a maximum 30% weighting for price.

- 3. What are your plans to make the assessment process clearer, simpler, fairer and more objective to assist Territory Businesses to win more work?**

This is the key objective of the VFTAF.

Tender documents provide context statements, and show the weightings for each sub-element.

Local content questions have been designed to be less subjective, enabling streamlined assessments against pre-planned benchmarks.

- a. When was this assessment process last reviewed?**

See response to 2a.

- b. What changes occurred as result of the last review?**

See response to 2b.

- 4. What power or control does your agency have to review contract decisions from projects that result from grants from the NT Government such as the Charles Darwin University?**

Northern Territory Government Agencies and other entities that must comply with the Procurement Act 1995 through the adherence to the Northern Territory Government Procurement framework can be located online.

<https://nt.gov.au/industry/procurement/how-procurement-works/procurement-framework/agencies-covered-by-procurement-framework>

The Northern Territory Government has a wide range of grants available to non-government agencies, business entities, community groups, associations and the private sector, each with its own criterion and contractual obligations based on the application to that grant.

- 5. What steps have you taken to ensure that tenders from a non-government agency such as Charles Darwin University to ensure Territory businesses are awarded work under any buy local schemes?**

Northern Territory Government Agencies and other entities that must comply with the Procurement Act 1995 through the adherence to the Northern Territory Government Procurement framework can be located online.

Entities outside of the Procurement Act are encouraged to consider the governments Buy Local principles when creating their own Procurement Frameworks.

**6. If Tenders from agencies such as CDU do not meet buy local standards what does the NT Government do in response?**

Northern Territory Government Agencies and other entities that must comply with the Procurement Act 1995 through the adherence to the Northern Territory Government Procurement framework can be located online.

Entities outside of the Procurement Act are encouraged to consider the governments Buy Local principles when creating their own Procurement Frameworks.

**7. Does the NT Government oversee the buy local content on CDU tenders/contracts?**

No. CDU is not covered by the *NTG Procurement Act 1995*.

**a. If there is NT Government oversight, how is the oversight achieved and how is it measured?**

Not applicable.

**b. If there is no oversight what is the NT Government doing to rectify the situation?**

Entities outside of the Procurement Act are encouraged to consider the governments Buy Local principles when creating their own Procurement Frameworks.