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LITHGOW NSW 2790

Ph:

12 August 2021

The General Manager
Lithgow City Council
180 Mort Street
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Submission – Draft Policy 1.7 – Local Procurement

Dear Sir

As a former small business owner in Lithgow, I find a Local Procurement Policy very welcome and long overdue.

I do, however, have a problem with the definition of a Local Supplier as “A business that has a physical presence and operates from a permanently staffed address within the boundaries of the Lithgow City Council Local Government Area (LGA) ...”

My concern is that many tradespeople and some professionals operate their business from home and will not fit that definition, especially the requirement for a “permanently staffed address”.

My business was involved in garden, landscaping and tree services and was successful locally for 25 years. We provided services for many Government and Commercial premises, and even Lithgow City Council on a couple of occasions. Basically, the business was run from home with equipment stored at various sites over time, out of sight as much as possible in an attempt to keep it secure. Our home and premises never had signage advertising the business. We could be contacted by post, facsimile, email and telephone but could not have been described as having a permanently staffed address.

As I understand your definition, we would have been excluded under this Policy. I believe many electricians, plumbers, painters, builders, arborists, computer systems designers and repairers, and similar specialists who would be quite capable of supplying services to Council would be excluded. Similarly, artists and musicians rarely have a permanently staffed address and would thus be excluded. This is by no means an exhaustive list and would include many others who would be similarly affected. Such small businesses would find the 2.5% or 5% price concession very valuable.

I realise that Council has many employees to cover your requirements and would rarely contract such business people, but it's essential, if Local Procurement is a policy, that the definition covers all local businesses, including those who work from home and those for whom their mobile phone is their office.

Yours faithfully