



**ACT**  
Government

# CONSULTATION PAPER

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

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# ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

The ACT Government is seeking feedback on the draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy.

The policy was drafted by the ACT Government in consultation with:

- > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB);
- > Supply Nation;
- > Canberra Indigenous Business Network;
- > Indigenous Business Australia;
- > Canberra Business Chamber; and
- > Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service.

Targeted face-to-face consultations were held in early November 2018 with selected bodies representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises. The feedback from the targeted consultations will be further discussed at workshops with enterprise owners to be held from late November 2018.

A workshop and an online consultation with the wider community will now further inform the policy.

As part of this process, the ACT Government welcomes feedback on the draft policy via YourSay at [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au). The consultation will be open from 30 January 2019 to 17 February 2019.

The ACT Government will review all feedback received throughout the consultation period and publish a summary brief report on the YourSay website one month after the consultation closes.

A final report outlining next steps and the matters raised during the consultation will be made available on the YourSay website within three months after consultation ends.

The ACT Government will finalise and launch the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy in mid 2019.

More information is at [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au)

## About the policy

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy aims to increase opportunities for the ACT Government to engage with and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned enterprises in the ACT and is part of the Government's commitment to achieving the outcomes of the [ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028](#).

The key features of the policy are:

- > recognising and reducing barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises;
- > recognising the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises to choose an organisation they are confident has a robust certification process to ensure the integrity of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier list;
- > reporting requirements in ACT Government directorate annual reports to ensure the policy is effective in increasing procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises;
- > an exemption from the quotation thresholds for goods and services under \$200,000 to directly seek a quote from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise; and
- > inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment questions in the Local Industry Participation Plan as per the Local Industry Participation Policy.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy encourages a cultural change in ACT Government procurement practices to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises respond to government opportunities. This involves addressing bias and barriers, having clear requirements, allowing time and considering financial burdens. Additionally, each ACT Government directorate is required to:

- > identify and act on procurement opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises;
- > encourage staff to seek quotes from relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises wherever possible;
- > increase the proportion of their overall expenditure and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises each financial year; and
- > report against the policy's performance measures in its annual report.

## Consultation questions

The ACT Government is seeking feedback from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises in the ACT, as well as the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on the following:

### **Certifying Authorities**

- > What are your thoughts on the proposed certifying authorities?
- > Are there other organisations you would like the Territory to recognise as a certifying authority?

### **Definition of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Enterprise**

- > What are your thoughts on the definition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise?

### **Using the Policy**

- > What are your thoughts on the process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises accessing opportunities under the policy?
- > Can you identify any barriers?
- > Are there any capacity challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises using the policy?



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