

Tasmanian businesses welcome procurement reforms in Tasmania

Tasmanian businesses welcome the State Government's decision to reform its procurement processes.

State Premier, Lara Giddings, recently held a jobs forum in Launceston to discuss the current system for government procurement with key stakeholders from all major industries in a bid to combat Tasmania's high unemployment rate.

Many of the leaders present commented that the State Government's current system disadvantages local businesses.

"The Tasmanian Government is planning for the future, through initiatives like the Economic Development Plan, tapping into the Asian Century, reforming our energy sector, and investing in irrigation infrastructure," says Premier Giddings.

Changes to the procurement process include splitting up tenders into bundles so that smaller Tasmanian companies can compete more effectively, as well as buying locally whenever possible.

Premier Giddings also committed to establishing a Central Procurement Board, which will take advice from industry on how to structure government contracts to ensure Tasmanian businesses are not disadvantaged.

The Board will also serve as a point of contact for businesses to access information about government tenders.

Dean Winter, Executive Officer for peak industry body TASICT, welcomed the changes.

"This is about government putting Tasmanian businesses front and centre of its procurement policy," says Winter. "It's about creating a cultural shift within the bureaucracy towards positive, proactive engagement with local businesses on Government procurement."