

AMENDED MOTION BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON

ITEM NUMBER: CCS469

ITEM TITLE: REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICY POSITION - BUY LOCAL POLICY

DATE & TIME RECEIVED: 22 SEPTEMBER 2022 1:57pm

CCS469: AMENDMENT BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON

VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY

THAT Point 4a of the draft Buy Local Policy be AMENDED to read:

Goods or services up to a maximum price reduction of \$50,000: 10% to businesses located within those municipal areas of Denmark, Plantagenet, Jerramungup and Gnowangerup (that together with Albany comprise the Prescribed Area) whose shires reciprocate Albany's recognition of their municipal areas as 'local' in their buy local (price preference) policies.

Councillor Reason:

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that Albany's commercial and industrial suppliers are not disadvantaged when competing for work against suppliers based in those adjoining municipalities that from time to time may not reciprocate Albany's recognition of them as 'local' in their buy local (price preference) policies.

Desktop research has established that of the four municipalities whose areas adjoin Albany within the Prescribed Area of this policy, only the Shire of Denmark reciprocates Albany's recognition of its municipal area as 'local' for the purposes of procurement.

I strongly support a sub-regional approach to economic development, as my Council-elected role on the executive committee of the South Coast Alliance would attest. Hence, I firmly believe the City should, as it currently does, have a Buy Local Policy that recognises all adjoining municipalities as 'local'. To that end, I also support the administration's proposed updates to the policy.

However, my support does not extend to bestowing an unfair advantage upon suppliers from outside Albany to the detriment of Albany-based businesses.

On September 16, I asked the City administration for details of how many contracts had been let outside Albany in the past two years since I first raised this issue with elected members. I trust this information will be available in time for the September OCM.

Regardless of the results of my inquiry, it would be very unfortunate if just one Albany-based supplier were to lose a contract to a non-Albany supplier afforded preferential treatment and located in a municipality that does not reciprocate our recognition of them as 'local'.

This may have already occurred.

If not, it may well occur in future.

My suggested amendment, if passed, will ensure that no Albany business is ever put in this invidious position.

I applaud the intent of Albany's Buy Local Policy, and the Shire of Denmark for reciprocating Albany's recognition of Denmark suppliers. In the interests of advancing a consistent sub-regional approach, I encourage Plantagenet, Jerramungup and Gnowangerup to consider doing the same.

The proposed amendment will not affect Albany's recognition of adjoining municipal areas as 'local'. It will merely limit the 10 per cent price preference to suppliers located within the areas of adjoining municipalities that reciprocate Albany's recognition of them as 'local'.

In doing so, the proposed amendment promotes, rather than detracts from, a sub-regional approach.

I respectfully request that elected members support the amendment, which is aimed at restoring equality of opportunity for Albany's business community, and encouraging a consistent and fair approach to advancing commerce and industry across the Lower Great Southern.

Officer Comment:

From an operational perspective, Officers have no concerns with the proposed amendment if supported by Council, noting the additional requirement to monitor the status of the buy local policies of the local governments outlined in the Prescribed Area for the inclusion of Albany as a local area.