

BUY LOCAL POLICY, NATURE OF LOCAL BUSINESS

221. Hon Barry House to the Minister for Housing and Works

- (1) What constitutes a local business under the State Government's Buy Local policy?
- (2) Does a business which does not have a country office, but does have a country phone number which diverts to a Perth office, qualify under the Buy Local policy?
- (3) If a business which maintains an office in a regional centre, but has an agent who only takes phone calls in another country centre, qualify under the Buy Local policy?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Under the State Government's Buy Local policy an entity is regarded as a local business if:
  - (a) A compliant bid is received from a Western Australian location and the majority of the contract value is to be performed within the State; and
  - (b) If no category (a) bids are received, then local transfers to bids from the rest of Australia and New Zealand when such bids are in competition with overseas locations;

To be regarded as a regional business the business must:

- Maintain a permanent operational office within the contract prescribed distance, employing permanent staff on an ongoing basis who will service the contract; and
- The office must have been established for six (6) months prior to bids being sought and the business must be either registered or licensed to operate within Western Australia.

In addition the regional businesses must bid and manage/deliver the majority of the contract outcomes from their regional business location.

- (2) No. The business cannot claim a regional business under the Buy Local Policy on the basis that the business does not maintain a permanent operational office within the contract prescribed distance that employs permanent staff on an ongoing basis that will service the contract.
- (3) No. If no permanent staff are employed at the regional centre from which a regional business preference is claimed. However, the business can claim a regional business preference if, in addition to the agent:
  - It maintains a permanent operational office within the contract prescribed distance, employing permanent staff on an ongoing basis who will service the contract; and
  - The office has been established for six (6) months prior to bids being sought and the business must be either registered or licensed to operate within Western Australia.