

OVERVIEW OF STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION POLICY CHANGES

2 May 2016

The amended State Supply Commission (SSC) policies and guidelines were gazetted on 29 April 2016 and will take effect on 2 May 2016.

The policies were reviewed with a focus on assisting agencies to build greater procurement independence.

The policies are designed to minimise red tape. They are a set of clear, straightforward rules that encourage and assist public authorities to obtain best value for money.

This document provides an overview of the changes to the SSC policies. The full policies can be found on the SSC website – www.ssc.wa.gov.au.

The policies affected by the changes are:

- Open and Effective Competition;
- Procurement Planning, Evaluation Reports and Contract Management; and
- Common Use Arrangements.

It is recommended that the policies be read to understand the full changes to the policies and the impact these changes may have on their procurement activities. The main changes are outlined below:

- The Department of Finance must now be involved in all purchases *and contract variations* valued at \$250,000 and above;
- All contract variations valued at \$50,000 and above must be recorded on TendersWA¹;
- Partially exempt public authorities are no longer required to seek advice from the Department of Finance when procuring from a registered Aboriginal business or an Australian Disability Enterprise;
- Partially exempt public authorities may buy directly from a registered Aboriginal business or an Australian Disability Enterprise notwithstanding the existence of a mandatory Common Use Arrangement. Approval from the Department of Finance is not required;
- Partially exempt public agencies are required to submit contract management plans, for procurements valued at \$5 million and above, including those from Common Use Arrangements, to the State Tender Review Committee (STRC) or the Community Services Procurement Review Committee (CSPRC) (the latter when procuring pursuant to the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy);
- The policies now contain more information on the rationale behind procurement planning and contract management;
- Partially exempt public agencies are required, where contract variations are valued at \$5 million and above (either individually or cumulatively), to submit a contract variation memo to the STRC or the CSPRC as applicable. This includes purchases

¹ Please note that the functionality to enter contract variations on Tenders WA will be available in early July 2016. In the interim, agencies should maintain a record of contract variations and publish these on Tenders WA once the functionality is available.

made pursuant to a Common Use Arrangement, unless the Buyers Guide states otherwise; and

- Definitions amended to clarify that all values mentioned in the supply policies are inclusive of GST.