

# Assisting Peel Aboriginal Businesses

**WORDS & IMAGE** | Peel Development Commission

The **Aboriginal Procurement Policy** came into effect from 1 July 2018 and sets mandatory government procurement targets for contracting with Aboriginal businesses.

This policy requires government departments to award contracts to registered Aboriginal businesses, consistent with progressive targets increasing to three per cent. The targets apply to all government agencies when purchasing goods, services, community services and works.

As a major employer, capital investor, asset manager and purchaser of goods and services in Western Australia, it makes sense for the State Government to leverage these roles to provide opportunities for Aboriginal businesses.

The targets are designed to achieve the prioritisation of Aboriginal businesses when procuring goods,


services, community services and works to improve the economic prosperity of not only the Aboriginal people involved, but also the broader Aboriginal community. Increased government contracting with Aboriginal businesses is also expected to provide new employment opportunities for Aboriginal people throughout the state.

Since the launch of this policy the Peel Development Commission has supported awareness and capability initiatives through the local content program in the region.

The Aboriginal Business Development Forum, which coincided with the policy launch in 2018, was an important first step in providing a networking forum, bringing awareness to the Aboriginal Procurement Policy and the opportunities it presents, as well as highlighting the support mechanisms that are available.

Momentum continued this year with the Aboriginal Business Tourism Operators workshop and Think Tank, 'Culture in the Parks', which connected relevant agencies with WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) to assist Peel Aboriginal businesses develop capabilities and

register as operators. Other awareness and capability initiatives include;

- Connected with Noongar CCI to work together to encourage registration of Peel businesses.
- Collaborated with PHCC and Winjan in the application process for the Aboriginal Rangers' Program.
- Influenced and supported the implementation of the Aboriginal Procurement Policy through collaboration with Department of Finance (DoF) in the 'Aboriginal Business Sector Procurement Training' workshop. Also worked with Business Advisory South West and Peel (BASW&P) to deliver the Aboriginal social media workshop 'Introduction to Facebook and Instagram'.
- Instrumental in organising the consultative process with Indigenous Professional Services (IPS), Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) and Indigenous Managed Services (IMS) in the delivery of the DoF Aboriginal Business Capability Building program.
- Involvement in the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project meeting with IPS, CoM and PCCI to assist Peel businesses to undertake subcontracting engagement with the Head Contractor.
- More recently collaborating with PHCC and IMS in the Wirra Hub Seminar to assist local Aboriginal Businesses grow their businesses using this free business coaching service. 

## MORE INFORMATION

Visit our local content pages on the Peel Development Commission website; [www.peel.wa.gov.au/our-focus/local-content-advisor](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au/our-focus/local-content-advisor) or contact **Therese Ejsak, Local Content Advisor** on (08) 9535 4140 or [therese.ejsak@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:therese.ejsak@peel.wa.gov.au)

