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GOVERNMENT PILOT TO BOOST SMALL BUSINESS

A new NSW Government pilot program will mean it's easier for small businesses to win work from their local council – boosting local economies and communities.

The Local Procurement pilot program - part of the NSW Government's *Making Business Easier* offering – aims to increase direct contact between small businesses and councils by cutting red tape and simplifying the tender process.

Minister for Small Business Damien Tudehope said the six month pilot would enable small businesses to operate on a more level playing field when securing contracts with their local council.

“NSW Councils spend significant funds on goods and services each year but many small businesses couldn't compete with larger competitors for contracts.

“A toolkit has been developed to help small businesses win council contracts, while providing tips to local councils on how they can become more small business friendly.

“This is a great opportunity for local businesses to tender for local government work and boost local economies,” Mr Tudehope said.

In June, the NSW Government changed the *Local Government Act 1993* to increase the threshold for tenders from \$150,000 to \$250,000, which will provide more opportunities for councils to engage businesses directly without a tender process.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said the Local Procurement pilot was a great example of how state and local governments were working together to help small businesses reach their full potential.

“Several councils including Georges River Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Campbelltown City Council and Central Coast Council have already expressed interest in the program.

“I encourage all NSW local councils to get involved in this fantastic program and see more of their contracts secured by their local small businesses,” Mrs Hancock said.

For more information go to www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/local-procurement

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