6.2 Local Spending Initiative

NOTICE OF MOTION LISTED BY CR PAUL CAVALIER
TO 15 APRIL 2020 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400087,

MOTION

That Council:

1. review any current purchasing arrangements that are in place where goods are sourced from outside of the region, and look for opportunities to spend that money locally within existing Policies and Contract arrangements;

2. request a report be brought back to the May 2020 Council meeting, reviewing the Local Preference Policy, and implementing an interim COVID-19 Local Preference Policy which strengthens the spend on goods and services within the LGA; and

3. Council actively encourages, through the use of social and print media, and any other means available to them, that local businesses co-operate with each other during this crisis, and encourage consumers to shop locally wherever possible.

Background

The local economy is facing unprecedented pressure due to the outbreak of COVID-19. This presents an opportunity for Council to assess current spending for products and services, and to determine whether or not that money can be spent locally, in cases where it currently isn’t.

This would provide an injection of money within our LGA, further protecting our local economy from the drastic and detrimental effects of this pandemic, and demonstrating our willingness to procure products and services as locally as possible in all instances.

If this motion is carried, I would expect that Council would actively work to encourage businesses to co-operate and work together, and for locals to shop locally wherever possible. It would be essential, when running such a campaign, that the positive economic impacts of doing this be highlighted repeatedly throughout that process, to assist the campaign’s audience to better understand the importance of keeping money within the region.

Officer’s comments

Council notes that local businesses have been heavily impacted by the Public Health restrictions to the COVID-19 pandemic, and implementing interim policies supporting local procurement is a suitable response to this situation.

It is recommended that any revised Local Preference Policy should still include a way to ensure Council is obtaining value for money, as well as purchasing locally wherever possible.

Council has some existing contracts in place for procurement of goods and services, and this will inhibit being able to procure locally, on a heavier basis. Council also has some large tenders out at present, and the terms of these tenders are already advertised in the Request for Tender
documentation. There may be some timing delay before any revised Policy measures can be implemented.

A report by the Economic Development in this business paper also recognises the importance of reinforcing the buy local message in Council communications.