



**Canberra
Business
Chamber**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Thriving local business will lead to secure jobs

The ACT Government yesterday introduced the *Government Procurement (Secure Local Jobs) Amendment Bill 2018* that sets additional requirements for business who seek to tender for ACT Government funded work.

Canberra Business Chamber calls on the ACT Government to consider simplifying the proposed tender requirements for ACT Government work to ensure SME's are not locked out.

"The Government's procurement objective is to ensure that ACT government works will only award contracts to those businesses who meet their industrial and employment obligations in all respects," Canberra Business Chamber CEO, Robyn Hendry explained.

"The industry commends the ACT Government on removing the existing MOU with the Unions in this area, and has long been advocating for a transparent process with respect to ACT government procurement practices."

"However, care must be exercised as we do not want to be supportive of the introduction of any legislation that is overly complex or cumbersome for local SME's, which may have the effect of discouraging local business from tendering on such works.

"It is critically important that the proposed measures do not run counter to certain aspects of existing Federal workplace relations laws, and urges the Government to remain cautious with introducing such a prescriptive approach."

The Canberra Business Chamber remains committed to working with ACT Government to ensure its procurement practices are supportive of local business and the ACT economy, and looks forward to ongoing consultation with Government over the proposed changes.

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