

Collaborating Councils

Workcover Agency Services

Improving the way local councils buy goods and services to support their communities increases capacity and performance and provides better value for residents and ratepayers.

In 2014, Local Government Victoria (LGV) worked with a group of five councils to improve Workcover agency services on a regional level.

Victorian councils are not obliged to tender for Workcover insurance but these collaborating councils decided to tender together to better manage occupational health and safety (OH&S).

Participating councils

- **Buloke Shire Council (lead)**
- **Campaspe Shire Council**
- **Central Goldfields Shire Council**
- **Gannawarra Shire Council**
- **Loddon Shire Council**

Process

With guidance from LGV to build their capacity, participating councils developed tender specifications that required each tenderer to identify the benefits and opportunities arising from this collaborative approach. This allowed councils to develop common accounts management systems and processes, joint training activities and policy and to focus on best practice in OH&S management.

Each council signed individual contracts outlining improved service levels.



The project was led by a management group comprising two procurement managers and one HR manager (experts in Workcover claims) from each of the five councils. The councils attribute much of the project's success to this approach and experience gained collaborating earlier on a joint road resealing procurement project.

Benefits

- At a minimum these councils will gain access to a 'development fund' of 1-2% of the annual premium and will represent training and development in the region to the value of \$50,000 or more. Historically this premium had been made available only to bigger clients. The councils committed to use the remaining funding to undertake a feasibility study for a Workcover contract manager.

Read about the success and benefits of collaborative procurement at Local Government Victoria's website www.delwp.vic.gov.au/local-government/strengthening-councils/collaborating-councils.

For more information regarding this project contact Local Government Victoria on (03) 9948 8537.

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