

Collaborating Councils

Eastern Metro Line Marking and Tree Pruning

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 led a project that focused on the development and delivery of a roadmap on collaborative procurement. The project included a mapping exercise of how councils in the eastern metropolitan region provided services across a range of categories. They studied each category of expenditure for these services, mapped how the service was provided, how it was purchased and listed key internal and external drivers that affected the service. Following this, they focused on investigating collaborative arrangements for **line marking and tree pruning services**.

Participating councils

- **Banyule City Council**
- **Boroondara City Council**
- **Knox City Council (lead)**
- **Manningham City Council**
- **Maroondah City Council**
- **Monash City Council**
- **Nillumbik Shire Council**
- **Whitehorse City Council**
- **Yarra Ranges Shire Council**

Process

A project steering committee was formed, with representatives (including procurement managers and technical staff) from each participating council. The project's success is credited to a broad representation of council experts on the steering committee.

Working together, the councils focused on breaking down barriers, building relationships and improving



procurement practices across the network. The steering committee kept CEOs well informed of the process at key points of the project, improving organisational support.

With the clear aim of gaining positive returns on investment, the steering committee undertook a thorough investigation to fully understand the costs of collaboration. Although tree pruning was meant to be a key focus, this early investigation identified the timing was not right for a collaborative approach for this service.

Data analysis showed there was a great deal of variation across the region in the type of pruning undertaken – inner urban pruning of Boroondara, compared to the pruning required in high risk fire areas such as Yarra Ranges and the interpretation of the current Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010. The steering committee recommended that as a region, councils align their tender end dates with the aim of tendering together but contracting separately at a future time.

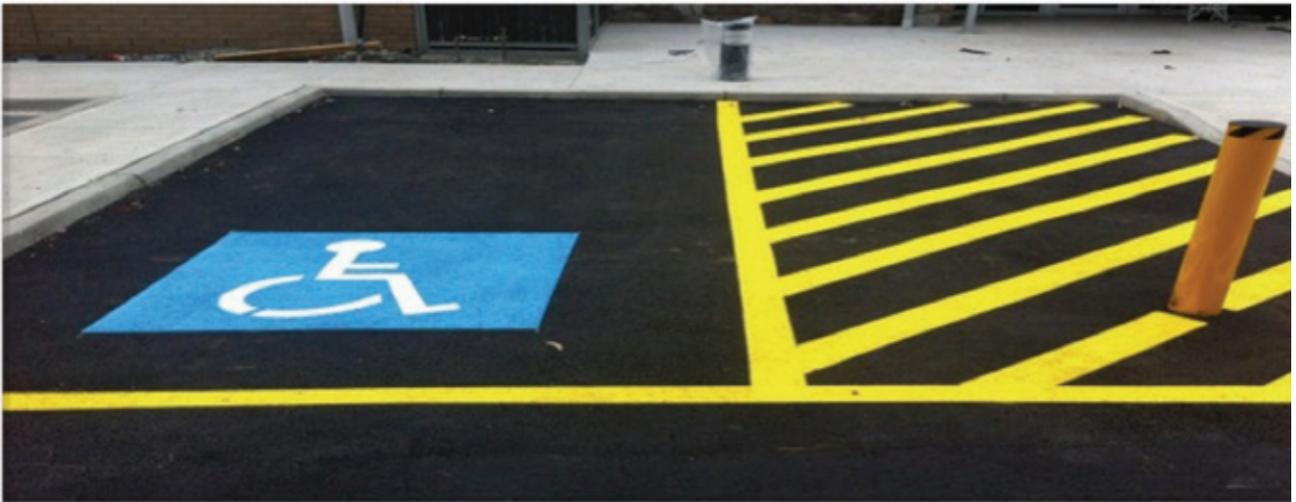
The councils agreed to focus on line marking and to undertake a 'Tender Together Strategy' for these services. This meant councils used a single form of tender and a common form of contract but signed their own contract with the successful supplier(s).

Collaborating Councils

This allowed for shared resourcing for the tender while ensuring each council individually controlled its own contract, negating the need for complex and expensive joint contracting structures.

Benefits

- Considerable savings are estimated at **\$800,000** over five years in the line marking area alone.
- The project has paved the way for further collaborative procurement projects for services like traffic management, outdoor furniture and tree stocks among many others.
- There has been significant cost reductions, also for service providers, through streamlined procurement practices including standard contract conditions and agreements and standardised line marking specifications.



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.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2016



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence
To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2016



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence
To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

www.delwp.vic.gov.au



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning