

# Collaborating Councils

## Overview

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.

Over the past 6 years Local Government Victoria (LGV) has supported groups of councils collaborating for better outcomes.

LGV's *Local Government Procurement Strategy* identified potential annual savings of \$180 to \$350 million across local government through improved strategic procurement practices including collaboration.

Tools and programs are available to help councils achieve savings through collaborative procurement projects.

Councils that have already experienced success, cost savings and benefits include:

### **Ararat, Ballarat, Golden Plains, Hepburn and Pyrenees councils working closely with LGV to collaborate on their bituminous road resealing procurement.**

This project:

- achieved cost savings of \$3.1 million over the five-year contract
- developed best value tools and templates for the sector
- won a 2012 Procurement Australia Award for Innovation and Collaboration.



### **Banyule, Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Nillumbik, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges councils identified joint opportunities in tree pruning and line marking.**

These councils:

- achieved cost savings of around \$800,000 over five years.



### **Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra and Loddon shires appointed a single WorkCover agent.**

Their approach:

- attracted a strong field that resulted in highly competitive bids
- improved service levels quickly.



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## Campaspe, Greater Bendigo and Greater Shepparton councils have collaborated to develop a common infrastructure design manual for engineering standards.

Working together these councils:

- shared ideas, systems, skills and training, leading to better practice across the councils
- facilitated consistency and better practice in design and engineering standards across the state.



## Central Goldfields and Greater Bendigo councils are undertaking a six-month co-location trial of a shared procurement service.

It is expected this co-location will:

- improve procurement processes and service delivery
- increase efficiencies, savings, and deliver services not otherwise available.



## Golden Plains, Hepburn and Pyrenees shires worked together on a joint feasibility study for the conversion of heavy fleet to biodiesel.

By working together, the study reported councils would be able to:

- reduce heavy vehicle emissions by around 170 tonnes
- improve service levels quickly.



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](http://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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