

Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

New regional rounds of the Local Capability Fund launched

9 May 2024

- Six additional rounds of the Local Capability Fund (LCF) announced worth \$600,000
- Grants up to \$20,000 to support small businesses across regional WA bid for State Government contracts
- The LCF program has delivered \$25.9 million to more than 700 businesses, including 363 regional businesses

The Cook Government has launched six more regional rounds of the Local Capability Fund (LCF) to support small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in their efforts to win contracts.

Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade Stephen Dawson said the grants would enable these businesses to supply goods and services to the Western Australian Government, major projects and export markets.

Grants can be used to cover expenses such as buying or upgrading essential capital equipment, meeting essential pre-qualification requirements for supply chain entry or the purchase of expert consultancies on a range of business and market issues.

The six LCF rounds includes the Goldfields-Esperance Regional Round. Businesses based in the relevant regions bidding for State Government contracts are encouraged to apply.

To date, the LCF has delivered \$25.9 million to 701 businesses, including 363 regional businesses, across a range of industry sectors.

The program has generated over \$1.3 billion in new contracts won by WA SMEs, and created 2,344 jobs and 297 apprenticeships, representing \$48 of contracts won by WA SMEs for every \$1 of LCF funding awarded.

For more information, please visit the wa.gov.au website:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-jobs-tourism-science-and-innovation/local-capability-fund>

Comments attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC:

“I am proud to be a part of the Cook Government, which understands the importance of investing in regional businesses to help them succeed.

“The Goldfields-Esperance Regional Round of the Local Capability Fund is a fantastic opportunity for small and medium sized businesses in our region to enhance their operations and become a competitive applicant when bidding for State Government contracts.

“I encourage all eligible Esperance businesses looking to improve their capacity and competitiveness to apply for the LCF by Monday 3 June.”

Comments attributed to Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade, Stephen Dawson:

“The Cook Government is committed to ensuring our regional businesses are well supported and have the opportunity to grow their businesses and be competitive in winning contracts.

"The LCF continues to play a critical role in improving the capability and capacity of Western Australian SME's to supply products and services to the WA Government.

"Through the LCF, the Cook Government continues to create local jobs and support local businesses to bid for State Government contracts, but also to help them adapt and compete in a rapidly changing economic environment.

"I strongly encourage all eligible businesses to apply and take advantage of these LCF grants in providing assistance to winning a contract."

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