



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Inquiry into the Government Procurement Framework

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Issue date: Wednesday, 22 February 2017

## Inquiry into new Commonwealth procurement rules

**22 FEBRUARY 2017**

The Joint Select Committee on Government Procurement today launched its inquiry into the Commonwealth procurement framework. The Committee will examine the changes to the Commonwealth Procurement Rules which come into effect on 1 March 2017.

The changes include:

- meeting Australian standards for goods and services;
- meeting labour regulations, OH&S and environmental standards;
- consideration of the economic benefit of the procurement to the Australian economy;
- meeting national and international obligations under trade and other agreements;
- gathering evidence to determine compliance with Australian and international standards.

Committee Chair Senator Nick Xenophon said Commonwealth Government procurement is currently worth over \$59 billion annually and it is important that Australian businesses have an increased opportunity to benefit from procurement decisions.

“These changes are designed to broaden the definition of ‘value-for-money’ to ensure that social and economic benefits, including local jobs, are taken into consideration when procurement decisions are being made,” Senator Xenophon said.

“It is crucial that these new clauses are implemented effectively. To that effect the Committee wants to hear from a wide range of stakeholders including government departments, academics and experts in the field as well as community groups and relevant business operators.”

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry are available on the Committee’s website. Submissions to the inquiry close on **31 March 2017**.

#### **Media enquiries:**

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#### **For background:**

Joint Select Committee on Government Procurement

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