

RE: Purchasing Policy review

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Attachments: image001.png (13.63 kB); Infrastructure Plan - Finance Process Vs4.docx (70.59 kB); RQL PurchasingPolicy revised(IIPC).docx (278.12 kB); RQL PurchasingPolicy - infrastructure plan (IIPC).docx (88.5 kB)

Good Afternoon All,

As per last meeting, please find attached the draft addendum to the RQL purchasing policy for your review and feedback prior to seeking comment from the Office of Racing. Also attached is the Infrastructure Plan – Finance Process document for review and feedback.

Both should be reviewed in conjunction with the current RQL Purchasing Policy.

We would like to forward these to Carol Perrett as soon as possible so that we can get feedback by 9 December giving us time to finalise for the Board at the upcoming Board Meeting.

Regards,

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ADDENDUM TO PURCHASING POLICY

Owner

Chief Financial Officer

Stakeholders

Corporate Wide

Revision History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description of Change</i>
1.01	25 Nov 2011	Draft Addendum to RQL Purchasing Policy



PURCHASING POLICY: INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN RACING QUEENSLAND LIMITED

Introduction

This addendum has been prepared to expand on the RQL General Purchasing Policy which provides guidelines and procedures to be followed by officers of Racing Queensland Limited when undertaking and managing purchasing activities to meet the organisation's operational requirements and also meet the objectives of the policy.

The Racing Queensland Infrastructure Plan has been designed to improve and further develop racing industry infrastructure by way of a \$110 million redirection of wagering taxes from the QLD government. Projects have been identified and funds allocated to each project.

Given the size and scale of these projects this addendum to the Racing Queensland Purchasing Policy has been developed to ensure the necessary additional steps are taken to ensure all projects funded are completed in an accountable and transparent manner to the highest standards.

Racing Queensland Limited is the Control Body established by, and obtaining its objects and functions from, the *Racing Act 2002* and its Constitution. Racing Queensland Limited is required to conduct its financial activities with probity and accountability, in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Equivalent to International Financial Reporting Standards A-IFRS and Australian Securities and Investment Commission- ASIC.

Key Principles

In conducting all of its purchasing activities, including infrastructure plan projects, it is the policy of Racing Queensland Limited to adhere, at all times, to the key principles of:

1. Value for money;
2. Quality of product, service, and support;
3. Open and fair competition;
4. Probity and Accountability of outcomes;
5. Use of Queensland product where price competitive, and where quality standards are met; and
6. Suppliers are compliant with all taxation requirements.

Policy

There is also a focus on using preferred suppliers as explained in this report in further detail. The procurement system should result in the following benefits:

- Reduce operating costs;
- Reduce risk;
- Increase control; and
- Improve cash flow visibility

Industry Infrastructure Plan

Racing Queensland Limited's Infrastructure Plan procurement policy must adhere to the strictest guidelines of Probity, Accountability and Transparency as the funds for these projects come directly from the QLD Government and as such are expenditure of these funds is expected to stand up to rigorous scrutiny.

Policy in relation to the approval of supplier payments specifically related to the Industry Infrastructure Plan is as follows;

- All invoices must be checked and signed by the Project Director even if outside of delegation limit.
- The Project Director is to obtain the approval of the CEO or Board if over his delegation limit.
- All delegations are to be in line with the RQL purchasing policy.
- All items outside of the approved budget with an aggregate tolerance level of greater than either 1% or \$200K of the project value will require Board approval.

Suppliers

As much as possible, Racing Queensland Limited should consolidate its suppliers and utilise preferred suppliers for either off-the-shelf goods/services where there are several sources of supply and the purchase is low risk or where there is an established relationship with a proven record of success. The advantages of using preferred suppliers are that it streamlines and simplifies purchasing, reduces administrative costs and promotes cost savings through volume discounts and exclusivity arrangements. Other benefits are that it minimises costs and risk for suppliers through not being required to regularly prepare and submit quotations.

1.1. Selection of Preferred Suppliers

The selection of preferred suppliers should be based on selection criteria that could include:

- Technical capability and experience
- Financial capacity and viability
- System and management responsibility incorporating product and service compliance with agreed industry standards
- People
- Business/organisation factors
- Favourable referee reports (a successful track record to deliver)

Racing Queensland Limited's 6 key principles:

1. Value for money;
2. Quality of product, service, and support;
3. Open and fair competition;
4. Probity and Accountability of outcomes;
5. Use of Queensland product where price competitive, and where quality standards are met; and
6. Suppliers are compliant with all taxation requirements.

1.2. Preferred Suppliers Listing

Preferred Supplier listings for Infrastructure Plan projects are to be developed by inviting suppliers with experience and expertise in the key areas that make up the projects identified in the RQL Infrastructure Plan to tender for projects thereby forming supplier panels.

These supplier panels could be further refined by way of prequalifying of suppliers lists.

1.3. Prequalification of Suppliers

Prequalification is where suppliers of particular goods or services are assessed against pre-determined criteria and then only those suppliers who satisfy the prequalification criteria are invited to tender for projects.

Prequalification provides added confidence that suppliers being invited to offer have the capability to supply the goods and services. Prequalification does not eliminate the risk of contract failure, but, if well managed, is a method of reducing the risk and administrative burden created by repeated approaches to the market.

Suppliers that are successful in meeting the prequalification criteria are generally included on a database maintained by the purchaser. Prequalification of suppliers is a strategy best used when the buyer procures a particular type of good/service on a regular basis and the procurement tends to be complex and/or costly and/or there is a high degree of risk involved in the procurement.

Some goods and services required for the development of racing tracks and facilities would fall under this category. As a general guide only they have been categorised into five broad groups:

1. Technical capability and experience
2. Financial capability
3. Systems and managerial capability
4. People
5. Business/organisation factors

Potential suppliers are assessed against specific criteria established by the purchaser and if successful are placed on a prequalification database. When a specific need by the purchaser arises, the prequalified suppliers are invited to offer. The offers are evaluated by the purchaser according to the specific offer evaluation criteria and the successful offeror is awarded the contract. Performance reporting about suppliers is an integral part of any prequalification system and should be incorporated into the system.

1.4. Outsourcing of Supplier Panel Selection

The use of organisations specialising in procurement processes such as preferred supplier lists, prequalifying suppliers and other supplier related contractual arrangements may be an alternative or addition to in-house procurement processes.

Local Buy is one such organisation with experience in procurement processes for local government. Local Buy is the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) procurement services company. Local Buy develops contractual arrangements for councils and government entities, eliminating the need for government authorities to establish their own supply contracts. <http://www.localbuy.net.au/>

The use of this type of organisation may be beneficial for tendering and contracting arrangements relating to the infrastructure plan projects, as the suppliers are effectively pre-screened for compliance with government procurement suitability

Consulting Services

Racing Queensland Limited uses consulting services in a number of aspects of its operations including legal, information technology, human resource management, financial management, business development, and marketing.

These consultancies vary from short-term "one-off" contracts, to longer-term arrangements, which may encompass a series of different activities (e.g. marketing and promotional work).

For short-term "one-off" contracts the following policy guidelines are to apply:

- The six key purchasing principles outlined above are to be applied at all times;
- For contracts under \$10,000 in value, preferred supplier arrangements* can be used. That is, where a purchasing officer is satisfied that a consultant that has provided a high quality service in the past, has the necessary expertise to undertake the work, and is available in an appropriate timeframe, that consultant can be appointed without a formal competitive process being undertaken. If such a person is not available, three quotes from prospective consultants should be obtained and evaluated;

(* Please note that where preferred supplier arrangements are referred to later in this document for other categories of purchasing, similar procedures to those above will apply)

- For contracts between \$10,000 and \$100,000, tenders should be called from at least three "preferred" contractors. The selection of these three preferred suppliers, and subsequent evaluation of their proposals, should take into account the six key purchasing principles. The evaluation of the proposals should be undertaken by two accountable officers, and be approved by a delegated officer (Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer);
- For contracts over \$100,000, will be subject to Board discretion as to the waiver of an open tender, including appropriate advertising of the consultancy. Tenders are to be evaluated, in accordance with the six key purchasing principles, by a panel of no less than two accountable officers, and be approved by a delegated officer.

For longer-term consultancy arrangements (e.g. the ongoing purchase of external legal services that cannot be delivered in-house), which may involve the use of a preferred supplier or suppliers for a range of individual tasks over an extended period of time, the following guidelines are to be followed:

- The purchasing officer may select a consultant for a range of tasks from a panel of preferred suppliers for the type of work involved;
- Prior to such a selection, a competitive process, adhering to the six key purchasing principles of Racing Queensland Limited, to appoint the panel of preferred suppliers must have been undertaken, be appropriately documented, and be signed-off by a delegated officer;
- In selecting the preferred supplier from the panel, the purchasing officer must clearly document the reasons for the selection, and be accountable for that selection. The selection must be approved by a delegated officer; and
- Individual consultancy contracts over \$100,000 in value are not to be entered into under these preferred supplier arrangements. For such consultancies, will be subject to Board discretion as to the waiver of an open tender, as described above, must be followed.

Confidentiality and Security of information

The integrity of competitive procurement hinges on maintaining appropriate confidentiality that will protect information and give offerors the confidence to do business with Government. Confidentiality has many dimensions and confidentiality of submissions is particularly important prior to the awarding of the contract with information shared only on a 'need to know' basis.

Confidential information may include designated or defined (and as agreed) elements of the supplier's proposal, specific intellectual property and offeror's pricing structures. Importantly, much of the information relating to the offer needs to be kept confidential up to the point where a contract is signed with the successful offeror.

A Confidentiality Agreements may include the following elements;

- The Contractor must not, and must ensure that its officers, employees, agents and sub-contractors do not use or disclose any Confidential information without RQL's consent
- The Contractor may disclose Confidential information to its officers, employees, agents and sub-contractors to the extent necessary for the performance of the arrangement, provided that the Contractor:
 - (a) Makes such persons aware that the information is confidential; and
 - (b) If directed by RQL during the contract term, obtains from such persons a confidentiality undertaking in a form acceptable to RQL
- RQL and Contractor must keep all Confidential information in a secure location so that no unauthorised person is able to gain access to it
- Upon receipt of a written request by RQL, either during the arrangement term or upon termination or expiration the arrangement, the Contractor must deliver to RQL any records in the Contractor's power, possession or control

Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of interest represent one of the potential threats to independence. A conflict of interest means having an interest (whether personal, financial or otherwise) which conflicts with, or may reasonably be perceived as conflicting with, the ability of the probity auditor or advisor to perform his/her obligations fairly and objectively. Perceived or potential conflicts of interest can be as damaging as actual conflicts of interest.

Recommended practice

The issue of independence should be specifically considered and addressed prior to engaging contractors, suppliers or consultants. At this stage, potential threats to independence should be considered as well as any safeguards that might eliminate or reduce the threats to independence. Independence is essential. A third party to the procurement should be able to rely on the fact that any and all potential conflicts of interest have been identified and recorded.

Potential goods and service providers should be required to divulge all potential threats to independence, including conflicts of interest, at the time of offer or as soon as any conflict becomes apparent during the service engagement. The service provider should be required to provide written assurance that he/she has no conflict of interest in the procurement, is able to remain objective and impartial throughout the engagement, and will provide notification of any conflict of interest, or compromise to independence, that arises during the engagement.

A Conflict of Interests document may contain the following elements;

- Contractor warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, as at commencement date neither contractor or any of its officers, employees or sub-contractors have, or are likely to have, a Conflict of Interest in the performance of its obligations under current or subsequent contracts
- If a conflict of Interest, or risk of such, arises during the term of the contract the contractor must immediately give notice of the Conflict of Interest, or risk of such, to RQL
- The Contractor must:
 - (a) Take all reasonable measures to ensure that its officers, employees and sub-contractors do not engage in any activity or obtain any interest which is in conflict with the Contractor's ability to fulfil its obligations to RQL in good faith and objectively, and
 - (b) Immediately give notice to RQL of any Conflict of interest relating to the activities or interests of any of its officers, employees or sub-contractors

Similarly all employees and agents of Racing Queensland Limited involved in any of the projects undertaken as part of the Infrastructure Plan are governed by the Employee Conflict of Interest policy of the company, and as such must immediately, in the event of a potential Conflict of Interest arising, notify their immediate manager of the issue.

RACING QUEENSLAND LIMITED

Item	Regional Senior Stewards	Admin Authorities, Racecourse Supervisor, racing Manager – Procurement Track Supervisor	Managers, Chief Steward, Racing and Facilities Supervisor, Track Supervisor	Information Technology and Communications Manager, Licensing and Training Manager, Racing Managers – Dividing Races, Management Accountant, Revenue & Services Accountant	Director of Integrity Operations, Facility & Development Manager, Senior Corporate Counsel/Company Secretary	Chief Financial Officer, Director of Product Development, Project Director	Chief Executive Officer	Board of Directors
Overall Delegation	<\$500	<\$1,000	<\$2,000	<\$5,000	<\$20,000	<\$50,000	<\$150,000 In line with Budget	Unlimited

Contractual Agreements (all contracts to be reviewed by Senior Corporate Counsel/Company Secretary for updating of Contracts register and assess if any legal advice is required)	X	X	X	X	<\$20,000 total value (not lease or license) assuming that authorised to sign in ordinary operations	Yes with CEO assuming previously approved and legally authorised to sign where <\$100,000	Yes where value <\$150,000	Yes, subject to Board agreement
Execution of Contractual agreements (All contracts to be reviewed by Senior Corporate Counsel/Company Secretary for updating of contracts register and assess if any legal advice is required)								To be executed by 2 Directors of the Company or a Director and a Company Secretary of the Company (\$127 (1) – Corporations Act 2001).

The same delegations above apply to the payment of invoices with one exception:

- An invoice can be approved by a person with a lesser delegation provided the original purchase order was approved appropriately and the invoice does not exceed an amount that exceeds 10% of the original purchase order.

It should be noted that as a business rule, staff are not allowed to circumvent their delegation by raising multiple orders to purchase a good or service for an amount that exceeds their delegation limit.

Delegations

All expenditures for goods and services are to be authorised by a duly delegated officer and are to be in line with budget. These delegations are as follows:

Unlimited

- Board of Directors

Up to \$150,000

- Chief Executive Officer

Up to \$50,000

- Chief Financial Officer
- Director of Product Development
- Project Director

Capitalisation of expenditure

Expenditure on discreetly identifiable plant and equipment items of \$2,000 and above will be capitalised where the future benefit of that expenditure exceeds one year at the time of purchase. All land purchases must be capitalised.

The Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer may approve the capitalisation of services expenditures of \$2,000 and above where those services have a future benefit exceeding one year. All assets which are under \$2,000 must be expensed in the year of purchase and recorded in the portable and attractive items register. All other service expenditures shall be written off in the financial year the expenditure was incurred.

Compliance with Commonwealth Government GST & Australian Business Number legislation

The Commonwealth Government implementation of GST and Australian Business Number legislation, has given rise to some additional obligations in respect of purchasing. These are as follows:

- Organisations are required to withhold 46.5% of any payment to a supplier of goods or services that does not provide an ABN. In response to this, it is the policy of Racing Queensland Limited that no supplies be purchased from entities that are unable to quote an ABN;
- All suppliers to Racing Queensland Limited are to be advised that they must be able to provide a "Tax Invoice" in the form specified by the GST legislation, to enable Racing Queensland Limited to claim input credits. Under law, the supplier must supply Racing Queensland Limited with a Tax Invoice within 28 days of request. Racing Queensland Limited staff should not enter into contractual arrangements with suppliers unless satisfied that the supplier will be able to provide a suitable Tax Invoice; and
- When obtaining quotes or prices from potential suppliers, purchasing officers must satisfy themselves that the prices quoted are GST inclusive.

Documentation and the Role of the Finance Department

See Purchasing Policy and Racing Queensland limited Infrastructure Plan Internal Financial Process document

Summary of Key Controls

As a high level summary, the key controls associated with the procurement system are:

- Only deal with suppliers who have a valid ABN.
- Three quotes required for amounts of \$10,000 or more where a preferred supplier is not used.
- Ensure appropriate delegation authorities applied
- Ensure probity and accountability in supplier selection process
- Confirm expenditure falls within approved budgets
- Ensure correct invoice coding to assist with budget review process
- Tax invoices to be obtained at all times.
- Required signatures for goods received.
- Vendor creation, deletion or addition must be performed by the Accounts Payable Officer and the bank account details are required in accordance to the Sun Security matrix to be entered by an Accounts Receivable Officer who does not have the ability to raise purchase orders or make payments in SUN. The change of details form is located G:\Finance\FORMS\Accounts Payable\Change of Details form.xls.
- Invoices are only paid after the prior approval of a purchase order (excluding credit card statement payments and direct debits) and after goods have been received.

In addition to the above, Racing Queensland Limited should perform a routine supplier analysis to review expenditure to determine that value for money is being achieved, and all probity issues are addressed.

Reference material (available on QLD Govt website)

QLD State Procurement Policy

QLD Purchasing – Ethics, Probity and Accountability in Procurement

QLD Purchasing – Prequalifying Suppliers

QLD Purchasing – Engaging and Managing Consultants

QLD Govt – Capital Works Management Framework – Procurement Strategy and Contract Selection

