

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Jobs and Industry
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Minister for Women



Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Put Local Jobs First: Have Your Say

Businesses and workers are invited to help shape the future of the Local Jobs First policy by providing feedback to the Allan Labor Government to support Victorian businesses into a strong pipeline of work across the state.

Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins today called for input into the proposed reforms to the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* – Australia’s longest-standing industry participation law.

The Act gives Victorian small and medium businesses an advantage to compete for government contracts – creating local job opportunities with a focus on apprentices, trainees and cadets.

The Labor Government is looking to strengthen the Act to make sure local workers and products are used for public projects where possible.

The proposed changes focus on compliance and enforcement of Local Industry Development Plans – including increasing the Local Jobs First Commissioner’s powers – and for uniforms and personal protective equipment to be made locally for Strategic Projects.

The reforms will build on policy changes in June 2022 that created better outcomes for the local steel industry on Strategic Projects. Strategic Projects are valued at more than \$50 million – with projects ranging from transport and healthcare to sport and tourism.

Since December 2014, local product requirements have been used for more than 300 Strategic Projects – with a combined value of around \$149 billion and supporting more than 50,000 jobs.

Other Labor Government initiatives focused on local and socially responsible government purchasing include the Fair Jobs Code and the Social Procurement Framework – with both driving secure local jobs and socially responsible Victorian businesses.

To make a submission, visit engage.vic.gov.au/strengthening-victorias-local-jobs-first-act-2003.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins

“This year marks the 20th anniversary of our Local Jobs First Act and I’m calling on Victorian businesses, unions and workers to have their say on how we can make this policy even better in the future.”

“Under Local Jobs First we’re using our purchasing power to make sure local and socially responsible businesses are always the first option – strengthening our own industries and securing thousands of jobs here in Victoria.”