

Pet. No 17/14

Tabled by
Hon. V. Goodwin MLC
30/10/14
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RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition No. 8 of 2014 Legislative Council

The petitioners ask the House to:

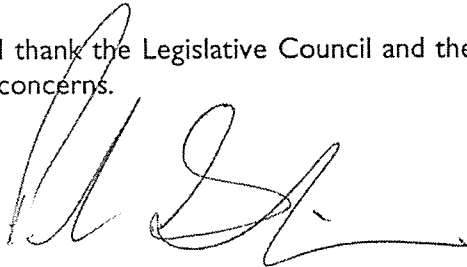
Ensure that the State Government leverages its future tenancy of Parliament Square to maximise local jobs and minimise the use of sub-standard imported building products by requiring the developer (Citta Group) to ensure the builder provides for the full, fair and reasonable access to and participation of local industry in the project through:

- Consultation with local industry and unions about the needs of the project and opportunities for local jobs;
- The development and lodgement of a Tasmanian Industry Participation Plan; and
- Preference of local suppliers.

GOVERNMENT POSITION:

- I can assure the Honourable President and Members of the Legislative Council and the petitioners, that the Government is committed to providing Tasmanian businesses with every opportunity to compete for Government business. It is recognised that maximising these opportunities contributes to the achievement of Government policy objectives, such as economic growth and job creation.
- Under the Government's 100 day plan we have introduced the Buy Local Policy. This Policy seeks to increase the opportunities for local business to compete for, and win, Government procurements. In particular, the impact on local suppliers must be considered at the planning stage for each Government procurement and, for contracts over \$50 000, the inclusion of an industry benefits test is mandatory.
- Initiatives such as the Buy Local Policy demonstrate that the Government is determined to increase the capacity of local businesses to compete in Government purchasing at a local level.
- In response to the specific comment about the purchase of glass for the *parliament square* redevelopment, I am advised that there are no suppliers in Tasmania or Australia that can manufacture the high performance glass required for the design of this building, in particular the curtain wall and indeed there is no general manufacturing of glass sheeting for windows undertaken in Tasmania. Unfortunately, most if not all, high performance glass needs to be imported from overseas due to the lack of manufacturing capacity within Australia.

- As I understand, a decision on the subcontractor to supply the glass has not been made, as the builder and its subcontractors have not been formally appointed by the Developer (a process which is well underway). I have been advised that companies that tendered for the parliament square building contract through the Citta Property Group Pty Ltd, went out to the market with, due to the scale required to complete the project, a number of local glazing companies electing to partner with mainland companies in their bid. We are advised from the Developer that regardless of the outcome of the curtain wall tender process there will be significant content likely to be undertaken by local contractors in building elements such as the glass lobby, balustrades and glazing associated with the heritage buildings.
- Regardless of the glass manufacturing limitations, the *parliament square* Project is expected to generate significant opportunities for local business, employment for hundreds of Tasmanians during construction and many long term jobs following completion of the commercial precinct associated with the redevelopment. I assure you, where possible, the Government is working with the Developer to involve local contractors and suppliers in this project.
- With reference to the concerns regarding safety I assure you and the petitioners that all works to be undertaken on the *parliament square* Project are required to be undertaken in accordance with all applicable laws and relevant Australian Standards and materials are to be fit for their intended purpose.
- I thank the Legislative Council and the petitioners for taking the time to raise these concerns.



Peter Gutwein MP
Minister for Planning and Local Government

Date: