



# Walcha Council & Namoi Unlimited Implements System to Support Business for Local Suppliers

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10 July 2020

Walcha Council will soon be implementing a new and innovative purchasing and procurement platform. VendorPanel and VendorPanel Marketplace will enable staff at Walcha Council and across the member Councils of Namoi Unlimited to find and select local and regional businesses to quote and work with.

Walcha Mayor, Cllr Eric Noakes said, *"This project is part of our commitment to direct spending to businesses in Walcha to boost the economy and drive local job creation. It also recognises our commitment to improving a complicated part of Council operations that has historically come under much public scrutiny. We are constantly striving to make this process fair, transparent and equitable and this is a large step on that road. VendorPanel Marketplace uses geolocation to refine the search for suppliers to within 5km of a postcode to 250kms of a postcode, enabling staff to see as many suppliers as possible that want to work with Walcha Council."*

*"It is free for suppliers and once registered, suppliers can receive invitations to quote on work across dozens of categories, from advertising to catering to construction trade services. The platform manages all communication between buyers and suppliers, reducing administration, saving time and ensuring procurement good practice is followed."*

The NSW Government and Commonwealth Government have funding packages that specifically direct Councils to expend funds with local and regional businesses. This tool will enable Walcha Council to work with a broader range of local and regional businesses. All types of businesses can register with VendorPanel. There are a wide range of supplier categories listed from construction trades to catering services.

There are a range of economic benefits of using VendorPanel's Marketplace. A recent audited case study of 26 Councils using the platform found that in 84.4% of cases, jobs were awarded to local suppliers. The study also found that local suppliers were competitive, delivering on average 9.74% savings to the buyer. The service is free for suppliers to register.

*"Locals can be better placed to meet local needs. VendorPanel Marketplace will make it easy for Council to find local and regional suppliers and get better procurement outcomes. Importantly we also see it will be invaluable for businesses to get access to these opportunities."* said Mayor Noakes.

Council will directly contact their list of local suppliers using email with all of the details on how to register and businesses can also find links on council's website to information and tutorials on how to use the system.

## MEDIA RELEASE



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Local businesses are encouraged to register at [www.VendorPanel.com/Marketplace](http://www.VendorPanel.com/Marketplace). Additional information and tutorials on how to use the system will also be linked to council's website. Council also plans to hold an information session for businesses and community members regarding this system in late August. Details will be communicated when confirmed.

For interviews phone Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes on 0428 774 504 or General Manager Anne Moddero on 0467 764 455

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