Media Release

CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION
The Voice of the Industry

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CCF NSW supports Local Jobs First legislation but says implementation must involve industry to avoid over-regulation

The Civil Contractors Federation NSW supports the new Local Jobs First legislation but wants to avoid the over-regulation similar laws have created in Victoria.

“NSW has the opportunity to get this right and avoid the red tape traps felt by the civil construction industry in other states following similar laws,” CCF NSW CEO, Kylie Yates, said.

“Victorian civil contractors face substantial administrative burden in proving local content in excruciating detail at every stage, which is why CCF NSW has called for light-touch reporting.

“Ultimately, over-burdening civil contractors with red tape ends with the NSW public paying more for their roads, rail, water, power, and other infrastructure.

“It is particularly important to be looking at the bottom line to taxpayers right now at this time of economic constraint and our push for higher productivity,” Ms Yates said.

CCF NSW is also emphasising that the scheme needs to be appropriately targeted with implementation that benefits small to medium local businesses.

“While we’re wary of red tape, we’re pleased the legislation seems to be drafted with the aim of supporting local businesses who employ local people.

“Our members want to ensure stable local employment continues and that local products are used, without being bogged down in heavy regulatory burden that risks cost blowouts on infrastructure projects.

“We look forward to continuing to work with the NSW Government and Minister Houssos to help make Local Jobs First succeed,” Ms Yates said.

"CCF NSW has made its position clear to government on what needs to happen to ensure the scheme is effective.

“This includes, for example, that reporting requirements should only relate to overseas materials used in construction, and that the new Commissioner’s role should be supportive, not punitive,” Ms Yates said.

The Civil Contractors Federation NSW (CCF NSW) is the peak body for the civil construction and maintenance industry, with approximately 400 employer members across New South Wales.

Our industry employs more than 35,000 local workers in NSW and underpins the delivery of every major infrastructure program across the state. Our members build the roads, bridges, subdivisions, and enabling infrastructure that supports every community in NSW.

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