



PART 1

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI)	2023/24 Approved Contractor List for the Hire of Plant
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Closing Time & Date:	12:00 Noon (EST) Wednesday, 31 May 2023
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EOI Contract Number:	EOI2324-01
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1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In these Conditions of Tender, except where the context otherwise requires:

‘**Closing Time**’ means Closing Date.

‘**Conditions of Tender**’ means these Conditions of Tender.

‘**Confidential Information**’ means any technical, commercial or other information, ideas, concepts, know-how, data, drawings, specifications or designs of any kind:

- (a) owned by the Principal and supplied or made available by the Principal to the Tenderer; or
- (b) created by the Tenderer, from the material supplied or made available to the Tenderer by the Principal for the purposes of submitting the Tender.

‘**Contact Person**’ means Nominated Council Contact.

‘**Contract**’ has the meaning given in the General Conditions of Contract.

‘**Contract Price**’ has the meaning given in the General Conditions of Contract.

‘**Contractor**’ has the meaning given in the General Conditions of Contract.

‘**General Conditions of Contract**’ means the General Conditions of Contract (if any) comprising Part 4 of the Expression of Interest.

‘**GST**’ has the meaning given in the General Conditions of Contract.

‘**Letter of Acceptance**’ has the meaning given in the General Conditions of Contract.

‘**Local Government**’ has the meaning given in the General Conditions of Contract.

‘**Personal Information**’ has the meaning given in the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

‘**Principal**’ means Goondiwindi Regional Council.

‘**Relevant Person**’ means the Tenderer and each person engaged in the preparation of a Tender on behalf of the Tenderer.

‘**Expression of Interest**’ or ‘**RFT**’ see Clause 2.1.

‘**RTI Act**’ means the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

‘**Special Conditions of Contract**’ means the Special Conditions of Contract (if any) comprising Part 5 of the Expression of Interest.

‘**Specification**’ means the Specification comprising Part 2 of the Expression of Interest, including any amendment or addition to the Specification.

‘**Tender**’ means a tender lodged in response to the Expression of Interest.

‘**Tenderer**’ means any person lodging a Tender.

‘**Tender Response**’ means the Tender Response comprising Part 3 of the Expression of Interest, including any templates or attachments to be completed and included in a Tender.

2. STRUCTURE OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

2.1 The documents comprising the Expression of Interest are, collectively:

- a) Part 1 – Expression of Interest (read and keep this part); and
- b) Part 2 – Specification (read and keep this part); and
- c) Part 3 – EOI Response Forms Documentation which, when completed by the Tenderer, comprises the Tender of the Tenderer (complete and return this part); and
- d) Part 4 – General Conditions & Special Conditions of Contract (read and keep this part).

2.2 All parts of the Expression of Interest must be read and construed together so that all parts are as far as possible consistent. Where the documents are inconsistent, the documents should be read and construed in the order of priority from document (a) to (e) as follows:

- a) Expression of Interest;
 - b) Specification;
 - c) Special Conditions of Contract;
 - d) General Conditions of Contract;
 - e) Tender Response.
- 2.3 The Expression of Interest is not an offer. The Expression of Interest is an invitation for persons to submit an offer for the supply of the Goods and Services particularised in the Specification.

3. OBTAINING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Principal will provide the Tenderer with the Expression of Interest. No fee is payable for the supply of the Expression of Interest.
- 3.2 Any additional information required by a Tenderer may be obtained from the Contact Person.
- 3.3 Tenderers must not direct requests for information to or seek to discuss the Expression of Interest process with, any Councillor or officer of the Principal other than the Contact Person.
- 3.4 The Principal will not be bound by any advice or information furnished by a Councillor or officer of the Principal with respect to the Expression of Interest.
- 3.5 Information provided to the Tenderer by or on behalf of the Principal:
- a) will be provided for the convenience of the Tenderer only, and, unless expressly incorporated into the Contract, will not form part of the Contract; and
 - b) Is not warranted or represented by the Principal as accurate, correct or adequate.
- 3.6 If the Principal makes information available to a Tenderer, the Principal reserves the right to distribute the information to each Tenderer who has obtained a copy of the Expression of Interest from the Principal.
- 3.7 If requested by the Principal, the Tenderer must:
- a) provide further information relating to the Tender; and
 - b) give a presentation at a time and place nominated by the Principal:
 - (i) to demonstrate the Tenderer's financial substance, technical capabilities and resources; and
 - (ii) to demonstrate its ability to comply with the terms and conditions of the Contract; and
 - (iii) in relation to anything else relative to the Tender; and
 - c) allow the Principal and its agents to inspect any facility or equipment the Tenderer proposes to use in complying with the terms and conditions of the Contract; and
 - d) authorise the Principal and its agents (in writing, if required) to contact any referee nominated by the Tenderer; and
 - e) authorise the Principal (in writing, if required) to obtain information about the Tenderer, particularly information relevant to the Tenderer's ability to discharge the responsibilities of the Contractor under the Contract, from any third party the Principal considers may be able to provide that information.
- 3.8 The Principal may provide information to Tenderers in electronic format.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TENDERER

- 4.1 Before submitting its Quotation, each Tenderer must:
- a) carefully read and consider the Expression of Interest and any other information made available by the Principal with respect to the Expression of Interest and the process of tendering for the Contract; and

- b) read and consider all information relevant to the risks, contingencies and other circumstances relevant to the Expression of Interest; and
 - c) inform itself of the nature of the obligations it must discharge under the Contract; and
 - d) inform itself of the labour, plant and equipment and other items necessary, suitable or desirable to enable the Tenderer to discharge its obligations under the Contract; and
 - e) not rely upon information provided by or on behalf of the Principal; and
 - f) independently verify any information provided by or on behalf of the Principal, and satisfy itself that the information is adequate and accurate; and
 - g) satisfy itself that the information in its Tender is accurate and complete; and
 - h) satisfy itself that its Tender complies in all respects with the requirements of the Conditions of Tender.
- 4.2 In evaluating Tenders and determining with whom it will enter the Contract, the Principal will rely upon Tenderers having complied with the requirements of Clause 4.1.
- 4.3 Failure to comply with any requirement in Clause 4.1 will not relieve the relevant Tenderer of responsibility to complete the Contract in accordance with its terms, and in particular, the price or rate tendered by the Tenderer.
- 4.4 The Principal will not be responsible for the payment of any expenses or losses incurred by the Tenderer in:
- a) attending any briefing or site inspection under Clause 3; or
 - b) preparing and lodging its Tender; or
 - c) participating in any post Tender activities.
- 4.5 A Tender will not be considered if the Tenderer or anybody on its behalf offers or gives anything to:
- a) any Councillor of the Principal; or
 - b) any officer or agent of the Principal,
- as an inducement or reward that could influence the actions of the person in relation to the Tender.

5. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The Tender must be submitted in writing in the form of the Tender Response.
- 5.2 The Tender Response must be fully completed, and include all supporting documents and materials required by both the Conditions of Tender and the Tender Response.
- 5.3 The Tender Response must contain the Tenderer's:
- a) full name; and
 - b) Australian Business Number; and
 - c) postal address and email for the service of notices.
- 5.4 If the Tenderer operates as a firm, the Tender Response must contain:
- a) full names and addresses of each member of the firm; and
 - b) business name under which the firm trades; and
 - c) firm's postal address and email for the service of notices; and
 - d) the firm's Australian Business Number.
- 5.5 If the Tenderer is a corporation, the Tender Response must contain details of the corporation's:
- a) name; and
 - b) business name (if applicable); and
 - c) Australian Business Number; and
 - d) registered office; and
 - e) postal address and email for the service of notices; and

- f) the name, telephone number and address (if different from the address for service of notices) of a natural person who is authorised by the corporation to represent it in relation to the Tender.
- 5.6 If the Tenderer is a consortium or a joint venture, the Tender Response must contain details of:
- a) the name of each member; and
 - b) the structure of the consortium or joint venture, including the proposed managerial structure; and
 - c) the role to be played by each member in complying with the terms and conditions of the Contract; and
 - d) in the case of a consortium, the member who is to be the principal contractor on behalf of the consortium.
- 5.7 The Tender Response must be duly executed in a manner that binds the Tenderer.
- 5.8 The Contract Price in the Tender Response must be:
- a) in Australian dollars; and
 - b) unless otherwise specified in the Tender Response, GST inclusive.
- 5.9 A Tenderer must provide a copy in accordance with Part 2 6.2.2 Lodgement Details.
- 5.10 The identity of the Tenderer is fundamental to the Principal. For the purposes of a Tenderer's Tender, the Tenderer is the person, persons, corporation or corporations:
- a) who is named as the Tenderer in the Tender Response; and
 - b) who has duly executed the Tender Response in a manner that binds the Tenderer.

6. CONFORMING AND NON-CONFORMING TENDERS

- 6.1 A Tenderer may lodge non-conforming Tenders only if it has lodged a conforming Tender.
- 6.2 Each non-conforming Tender must be accompanied by a clear summary of all points of difference between the non-conforming Tender and the conforming Tender.
- 6.3 Each non-conforming Tender must be submitted on a separate Tender Response.
- 6.4 A Tender may be considered as non-conforming if the Tenderer has failed to supply any of the information required by the Conditions of Tender, does not comply with any of the requirements of the Conditions of Tender or has been lodged subject to any condition or qualification.
- 6.5 If more than one conforming Tender is lodged, each Tender must be accompanied by a clear summary of all points of difference between each conforming Tender.
- 6.6 The Principal will not be obliged to consider any Tender that does not comply with the requirements of the Conditions of Tender.

7. LODGEMENT OF TENDER

- 7.1 Tenders must be received on or before the Closing Time.
- 7.2 The Principal may extend the Closing Time at its discretion.
- 7.3 A Tenderer must not alter or add to the Tender Response unless required by the Conditions of Tender.
- 7.4 A Tender is irrevocable for 90 days after the Closing Time.
- 7.5 The period in Clause 7.4 may be extended by mutual agreement between the Tenderer and the Principal.
- 7.6 Each Tender constitutes an offer by the Tenderer to the Principal to supply the Goods and Services required under and otherwise to satisfy the requirements of the Specification on the terms and conditions of the Contract.

8. OPENING OF TENDERS

- 8.1 Tenders will be opened after the Closing Time.
- 8.2 Tenders will not be opened publicly.

9. TENDER EVALUATION PROCESS

- 9.1 Tenders will be evaluated by reference to the sound contracting principles in section 106 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, namely:
- a) value for money; and
 - b) open and effective competition; and
 - c) the development of competitive local business and industry; and
 - d) environmental protection; and
 - e) ethical behaviour and fair dealing.
- 9.2 Each Tender will be evaluated using the information provided in the Tender Response.
- 9.3 If a Tender Response for a Tender is not fully completed or does not include all supporting documents and materials required by the Conditions of Tender or the Tender Response, the Tender may be rejected.
- 9.4 In evaluating Tenders, the Principal may:
- a) require presentations from Tenderers; and
 - b) conduct interviews with Tenderer's staff and subcontractors; and
 - c) contact Tenderers' referees; and
 - d) investigate a Tenderer's structure and management, and that of any relevant subsidiary or related corporation; and
 - e) make its own assessment of the Tenderer's ability to comply with the terms and conditions of the Contract at the tendered price; and
 - f) verify that the Tenderer holds all necessary permits, licences, approvals and certifications necessary to enable it lawfully to comply with the terms and conditions of the Contract.
- 9.5 Tenderers must give the members of the evaluation panel of the Principal any cooperation and assistance reasonably requested of them to facilitate consideration of their Tenders.
- 9.6 Compliance criteria for the Expression of Interest are specified in Item 3.1 of the Tender Response. Each Tender will be assessed on a Yes/No basis as to whether each of the compliance criterion is satisfied by the Tenderer or not. If a Tender Response is assessed as "No" in respect of a criterion, the Tender may be rejected.
- 9.7 Qualitative criteria for the Expression of Interest are specified in Item 3.2 of the Tender Response. The qualitative criteria may be weighted to indicate the relative degree of importance that the Principal places on the technical aspects of the supply of the Goods and Services. Each Tenderer must address each of the qualitative criteria specified in Item 3.2 of the Tender Response. If a Tenderer fails to address any of the qualitative criteria in Item 3.2 of the Tender Response, its Tender may be rejected.

10. CLARIFICATIONS AND VARIATIONS

- 10.1 The Principal may issue to Tenderers before the Closing Time:
- a) additional information; and
 - b) information clarifying or correcting information previously provided,
- to assist them in preparing their Tenders.
- 10.2 If the Principal issues information to Tenderers under Clause 10.1, each Tenderer must take the information into account in the preparation of its Tender.
- 10.3 After the Closing Time, the Principal may (without limiting its options):
- a) request clarification or further information from any Tenderer; and
 - b) invite all Tenderers to change their Tenders in response to an alteration to the Specification or any of the terms and conditions of the Contract; and
 - c) negotiate with one or more Tenderers upon any aspect of their Tenders.

11. COMMISSIONS AND INCENTIVES

- 11.1 A Tender will not be considered if anybody offers or gives anything to a Councillor of the Principal, or any officer or agent of the Principal, as an inducement for the purpose of seeking to influence the manner in which the Tender is evaluated or the Contract awarded.

12. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 12.1 The Tenderer:
- a) acknowledges that the Confidential Information is sensitive and valuable, and will remain at all times the property of the Principal; and
 - b) must not use the Confidential Information for any purpose other than preparing its Tender; and
 - c) must not copy any material comprising or containing Confidential Information, other than where (and then only to the extent that) copying is necessary to enable it to prepare its Tender; and
 - d) must allow access to the Confidential Information by Relevant Persons only to the extent necessary to enable the Tender to be prepared; and
 - e) must obtain the Principal's written consent before disclosing Confidential Information to a person other than a Relevant Person.
- 12.2 The consent of the Principal to disclosure of the Confidential Information by the Tenderer may be given or withheld on such terms and conditions as the Principal considers appropriate.
- 12.3 The Tenderer's obligation under this Clause 12 continues after closure of tenders and award of the Contract.
- 12.4 The Principal reserves the right to retrieve from a Relevant Person any Confidential Information held by that person, subject to the Principal having given written notice to the Tenderer in writing that the Relevant Person is to be denied access to the Confidential Information.
- 12.5 Failure or delay by the Principal in enforcing strict compliance with this Clause 12 or pursuing a remedy under this Clause 12 will not constitute a waiver or implied variation of the entitlement or remedy.
- 12.6 This Clause will not apply to an item of Confidential Information where the Tenderer can establish that:
- a) the item has been transferred to the public domain through no fault of the Tenderer; or
 - b) the item was already in the Tenderer's possession when it was supplied or made available by the Principal, and not acquired directly or indirectly from the Principal; or
 - c) it has received from the Principal written notification that the Principal no longer requires the Tenderer to keep the item confidential.

13. ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

- 13.1 The Principal will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.
- 13.2 The Principal may accept a Tender from a Tenderer by giving written notice in the form of a Letter of Acceptance to the Tenderer who submitted the Tender to the Principal.
- 13.3 The Contract will not come into existence until the Principal has given written notice in the form of a Letter of Acceptance to the Tenderer.
- 13.4 When the Contract comes into existence the Tenderer becomes the Contractor for the purposes of the General Conditions of Contract.
- 13.5 The Principal reserves the right to accept a Tender in part or in whole.

14. RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE

- 14.1 The RTI Act provides members of the public with a legally enforceable right to access documents held by Queensland Government agencies (including Local Governments).
- 14.2 The RTI Act requires that documents be disclosed upon request, unless the documents are exempt or, on balance, disclosure is contrary to the public interest.
- 14.3 Information provided by the Tenderer is potentially subject to disclosure to third parties pursuant to the RTI Act.

- 14.4 If disclosure under the RTI Act, or general disclosure of information provided by the Tenderer, would be of substantial concern to the Tenderer, because it would disclose trade secrets, information of commercial value, the purpose or results of research or other information of a confidential nature, including Personal Information, this should be indicated by the Tenderer in its Tender. The Principal cannot guarantee that any information provided by the Tenderer will be protected from disclosure under the RTI Act.
- 14.5 The Tenderer must familiarise itself with the relevant provisions of the RTI Act dealing with the requirements for disclosure of information by agencies, and the grounds on which access to information may be refused.
- 14.6 The Principal accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or adequacy of any information it provides to Tenderers concerning the content or effect of the RTI Act.
- 14.7 The Principal reserves the right to disclose, by publication by means of media of its choosing upon award of any contract details of the name and address of the Contractor, a description of the relevant goods, services or goods and services, the commencement date of the Contract and the Contract Price or value.

15. OWNERSHIP OF TENDERS

- 15.1 Each Tender Response (including all supporting documentation and materials submitted by a Tenderer as part of, or in support of, a Tender) becomes the property of the Principal on submission and will not be returned to the Tenderer.
- 15.2 However, the Tenderer shall retain copyright and other intellectual property rights in respect of the Tender except to the extent specified in the Contract.
- 15.3 The Principal may reproduce the Tender for the purposes of evaluation.

16. INFORMATION PRIVACY

- 16.1 The Principal is bound by the provisions of the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.
- 16.2 By submitting a Tender, the Tenderer warrants that it has obtained the consent of each individual whose Personal Information is included in the Tender for:
- a) the inclusion of their Personal Information in the Tender; and
 - b) the use of the Personal Information by the Principal for the purpose of evaluating and awarding the Tender; and
 - c) the disclosure of the Personal Information to other parties (including professional advisors) as may be involved in assisting the Principal with the evaluation of the Tender.
- 16.3 The Tenderer must indemnify the Principal against any claim, damage or loss (including legal costs and expenses) that the Principal may incur as a consequence of a breach by the Tenderer of the warranty in Clause 16.2.
- 16.4 Any Personal Information exchanged between the Tenderer and the Principal must be dealt with in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.
- 16.5 The Tenderer must immediately notify the Principal upon becoming aware of any breach of this Clause 16.