

Pilot program aims to kickstart small business investment



[Brenton Waters](#)

July 28, 2021

Local small businesses have a chance to become preferred suppliers to Ipswich City Council, following the launch of a pilot program to make it easier to provide works and technical services up to \$200,000 in value.

Businesses offering building, plumbing and gas fitting, stormwater and sewage, electrical, and concreting services, as well as a range of technical disciplines, are encouraged to apply.

Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding said council was committed to doing more local trade and growing the city's economy. "Small businesses are the backbone of our Ipswich economy, key drivers in the economy, who create jobs and provide essential goods and services for our community," Mayor Harding said.

"Ipswich is Queensland's first recognised Small Business Friendly Council, and we're putting our money where our mouth is and committing to supporting local small business. "By developing approved supplier lists and panels of providers, we can spend ratepayers' money directly with Ipswich businesses, helping to support jobs, local supply chains, and professional services.

"It also means council can be more efficient with its spending, and more agile in responding to emerging needs, all while making sure our local economy is supported. "It also means we can help identify the capability of the supply market while supporting local businesses to grow their capacity.

"If this works, there's plenty of potential to scale up to bigger projects to provide further benefits for the community and local businesses – I'm excited to see what our economy is capable of." Businesses lodging an expression of interest may have the opportunity to quote on a range of minor work or professional services contracts, depending on skills, need, and Council requirements. EOIs for two panels are currently being sought, for minor works and a second for technical works.