



# Changes to the Local Jobs First Commissioner's powers

From 1 July 2026, the Local Jobs First Commissioner has stronger compliance and enforcement powers under the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* (the Act). This factsheet outlines the key changes to the Local Jobs First Commissioner's functions and powers.

## Who is the Local Jobs First Commissioner?

The Local Jobs First Commissioner (the Commissioner) advocates for local businesses and workers, ensuring that they benefit from opportunities to respond to and participate in Victorian Government procurement.

The Commissioner also undertakes compliance activities to ensure that agencies meet their Local Jobs First obligations and suppliers are delivering their local content and jobs commitments.

## Why has the Act been changed?

In August 2025 the Victorian Government amended the Act to strengthen Local Jobs First. The changes make sure that the Local Jobs First scheme continues to maximise opportunities for local jobs and businesses, supporting a stronger workforce, local industry and the Victorian economy.

## Key changes to the Commissioner's powers and functions

The Act has been updated to give the Commissioner new powers and to strengthen some existing powers and functions.

The changes clarify the Commissioner's compliance monitoring and reporting role and expand the Commissioner's powers to investigate non-compliance and, where necessary, take enforcement action.

## Enhanced reporting powers

The Commissioner may now report to the Minister on any matter in relation to Local Jobs First or Local Industry Development Plans (LIDPs). This is in addition to the existing requirement for the Commissioner to submit an annual report to the Minister.

## New investigation and complaints handling function

The Commissioner now has the power to investigate any matter related to the performance of their functions or exercise of their powers. This includes the ability to investigate a matter on the Commissioner's own initiative, at the direction of the Minister or in response to a complaint.

These changes clarify the Commissioner's ability to investigate, monitor and report on supplier compliance with Local Jobs First.

## New power to conduct site inspections (with notice)

To support the Commissioner's existing information gathering powers the Commissioner has a new power to obtain information or evidence by conducting a site inspection. The Commissioner must issue a site inspection notice at least 3 business days prior to the proposed inspection, which must include the purpose, location and proposed time for the inspection.

### **New function to support the resolution of non-compliance issues**

The Commissioner now has a function (if both contracting parties agree) to provide advice and support the resolution of potential or actual non-compliance with the Local Jobs First Policy, an LIDP or the Act.

### **Non-binding recommendations to agencies**

The Commissioner may now make non-binding recommendations to agencies regarding the resolution of complaints or matters of non-compliance, or how Local Jobs First practices and processes could be improved.

### **New consequences for non-compliance**

The Commissioner now has expanded enforcement powers to respond to non-compliance.

#### Deprioritisation regime

Suppliers may be deprioritised if they:

- fail to achieve one or more of their LIDP commitments, or
- fail to submit completion reporting within 90 days of practical completion of a project.

The deprioritisation regime, and associated Commissioner powers, will only apply to Local Jobs First projects which go out for tender on or after 1 July 2026.

A factsheet on the deprioritisation regime can be found on the [Local Jobs First Factsheets](#) page.

#### Civil Penalties

If a supplier is non-compliant with the Commissioner's information gathering power or new site inspection power, the Commissioner may refer the matter to a court. This may result in a financial penalty.

### **Where can I find more information?**

The Act can be found on the [Victorian Legislation](#) page.

Updated Local Jobs First Policy, Local Jobs First Supplier Guidelines and Local Jobs First Agency Guidelines are on the [Key Documents](#) page.

Additional factsheets on Local Jobs First, changes to the Act, as well as other useful information, are available on the [Local Jobs First Factsheets](#) page.

Further information on the Commissioner can be found the [Local Jobs First Commissioner](#) website.

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