



The Stretton Centre
307 Peachey Rd
Munno Para
SA 5115
South Australia

Dr Matthew Butlin
South Australian Productivity Commission
GPO Box 2343,
Adelaide SA 5001

23 April 2019

Dear Dr Butlin

Re: Draft Report of the South Australian Productivity Commission Inquiry into Government Procurement

This letter sets out the response of the embryonic The Purpose Business Network – North's to the SA Productivity Commission's inquiry into Government Procurement. The letter has been prepared by Dr Guy Turnbull, the Don Dunstan Foundation's former Thinker In Residence.

I understand that the Don Dunstan Foundation have written to you under separate cover welcoming your focus on social enterprise and social procurement.

I will also be in attendance at the meeting planned for 6 May where the Productivity Commissioner will meet Social Enterprise Network reps to discuss social procurement.

In this submission I want to add written detailed response to the issues raised by you in sections, 7.3 & 7.4, by first, taking a step back, and considering the value and purpose of Social Procurement, before outlining a proposal for the Northern Suburbs.

Value & Purpose

Consideration of where procurement has had a significant and lasting positive impact on the economic and social well being of a local community and population (Preston in the UK, for example – see <https://cles.org.uk/news/animation-what-is-local-wealth-building/> plus attached document 'Beyond Preston'), it is where there exists a clear multi agency procurement strategy which:

- a) Recognises the value of Social Procurement as a crucial lever for government in delivering improvements to the economic and social well being of particular communities
- b) Goes further than simply attempting to 'level the procurement playing field' between large corporates and social enterprises.

Although there is much merit in making changes to contract specification to attract social enterprises bidders (Dividing contracts into smaller size lots, waiving balance sheet strength tests, increasing the scoring balance weighting away from price to quality and social impact, etc), it is key that Government recognises its power to add additional benefit to local communities as not only a 'market maker', but also a 'market shaper'.



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Specifically I mean Government could choose to engage further in a strategy that:

- a) Recognises the economic and social value of enabling the establishment of locally owned co-operatives and other form of social enterprise, through Government's position as 'Market Maker'.
- b) Engage with the social enterprise sector through entering into a programme of competitive dialogues and developing 'Innovation Partnerships' around specific procurement opportunities. Certainly in the UK, although governed by some strong European Procurement Law (The Public Contracts Regulations 2015) which focuses on the key pillars of
 - Openness & Fairness
 - Equal treatment
 - Non-discrimination
 - Transparency
 - Proportionality

It has been possible to co-produce some really impactful social enterprises who deliver public contracts, through meaningful engagement with the sector at an early stage of the procurement pipeline (See attached doc – 'What is The Preston Model'). By way of adopting such a strategic approach, Government could target its procurement approach to address specific wicked problems, whether that be youth under employment in a particular community, or market failure in the health, care, and disability sector.

The Purpose Business Network - North is currently developing a social enterprise strategy and action plan for Adelaide's Northern Suburbs to address under employment. A key strand of this plan is to develop a social procurement hub to support the co-design of Compact between public sector buyers and social enterprise suppliers. Your support for this type of initiative at this time would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Dr Guy Turnbull

Purpose Business Network - North

Stretton Centre



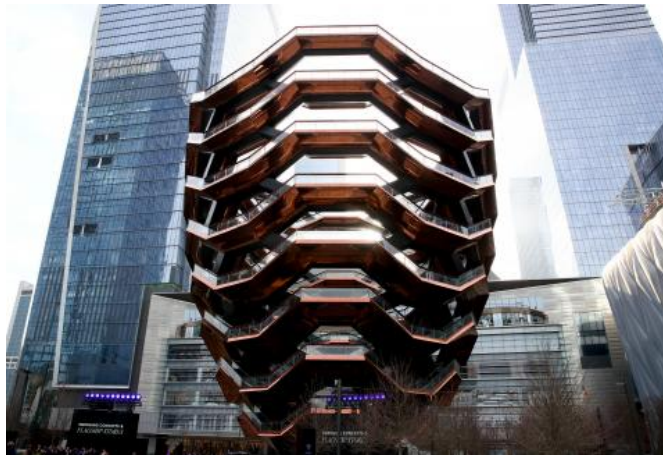
The Apple store opening in Milan. Image: Getty.

3. Hudson Yards 2.0

Is there a single rich person's playground that cannot be improved by a retractable roof and a stairway to nowhere™ with some [dogdy data ownership laws](#)?

In fact, New York City's The Shed and The Vessel, architectural equivalents of white elephants, might be better suited to the banks of the Seine.

Kinetic architecture could peel back to reveal the stage set for open-air choral concerts on balmy evenings. The replacement spire might even be improved were it covered in mirrored panels, incorporating a plethora of new vantage points.



The Vessel in Hudson Yards, New York. Image: Getty.

4. Something Brulalist

Yes, this is an 850-year-old gothic masterpiece that has withstood wars, rebellion, and now the President of the Free World's inane suggestion to waterbomb a flaming hot stone structure.

True, the survival of Notre-Dame's most precious relics including the 13th century radiating rose glass windows is largely due to mastel stonemasons. They designed soaring vaults that tugged at heart strings while acting as an ingenious two-way fire break between the roof and the main building.

But really, we all know dastardly modern architects are just itching to turn everything in a morass of concrete. Let them do something weird and modern with those flying buttresses and revel their true villainy.



Clifton Brutalist Cathedral in Bristol. Image: Purcell.

5. A sculpture park

Just put a piece of public art there and write some marketing copy about community, yeah?



Christo Vladimirov Javacheff's Mastaba, Serpentine Lake in London. Image: Getty.

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