




Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Small Business**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (3.26 pm): I would like to speak briefly today about what is a very important group in my electorate and, indeed, in this great state. It is a group that over recent years probably feels a little unloved. We have heard a lot of things from many different sectors of our community, but small and medium sized businesses in this country are hurting at the moment. There is no question as I get around my electorate that is a message I am consistently receiving. There are some factors like the economy that are playing a big role, but in many cases they feel like they have been overregulated or regulated out of existence. There is no question that the uncertainty in the federal parliament at the moment does not help. It seems like in many cases a lot of people simply put their pencils down until there is an election in September and a clear parliament. Many people simply are not investing. I hope that with a clear result in September we will get that certainty and move forward.

There are a lot of things that we can do. We have spoken about the need to cut red and green tape, and that process has begun. We have enacted the Queensland small business strategy and action plan. As members know, that is a strategy that underpins five priorities—lowering unemployment, making it easier to do business, increasing opportunities, stronger business in government engagement, and maximising business potential. All of those things are very important.

Today what I want to announce is a very small but local initiative that I want to try in my part of the world to see if we can do a little something, and that is to announce that I am going to be running a series of regular promotions through electronic media such as Facebook to promote businesses in my electorate that are doing something different. It might be the local fish and chip shop owner who is using environmentally friendly oil, or it might be a mechanic who is trialling something special. It might be any array of small business that is doing something different. I want to highlight it. I want people unashamedly to be very proud of the small businesses that are based in that great part of Townsville that I represent. I want people to support them.

This is a unique opportunity. I want to create that sense of community that comes with shopping locally. I want people to understand that in many cases not only are you supporting someone who most likely lives beside you whose kids go to the same school as you, but in many cases you are getting goods and services that you can rely on. Today I announce that as a call to action. I ask each and every member of the House to look at ways that you can promote it in your part of the state. Let us be proud Queenslanders and let us try to get small and medium sized businesses off the canvas in this great country.