




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Small Business Week

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.09 pm): I rise to inform the House about the 2014 Queensland Small Business Week and the Think Queensland, Buy Locally in Burleigh campaign that I am running within my electorate. The Think Queensland, Buy Locally campaign is the government's initiative to encourage communities to buy locally, thereby reinvesting in this great state. Members may be aware that every dollar spent in a local business returns many times that amount to the local economy through employee wages, rates and the purchase of goods and materials.

Small Business Week is an opportunity for business owners and groups to reach out to and connect with new and established businesses. It is an opportunity for small business to create a network from which to build upon and further contribute to the state's economy. As the House is aware, the Newman government is committed to working with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland to support, inspire and empower small business. I encourage all Queenslanders to join in and participate in the campaign so that together we can give back to the small business community of Queensland, which is the core of the state's economy.

In the week of 1 to 6 September, there will be a range of free and low-cost events and activities across the state. Businesses are encouraged to host an event, enjoying free promotion and rewards. Last year the event attracted 4,500 attendees, 70 per cent of whom were small business owners and 53 per cent of those owners have been in business for over 10 years. In my electorate of Burleigh, I have been campaigning for small business since my election and I will be holding a Buy Locally in Burleigh stall at the Gold Coast Show this weekend. There will be Buy Locally show bags containing vouchers and brochures from local businesses in my electorate encouraging Gold Coast residents to shop on the southern end of the coast on Buy Locally Saturday.

Think Queensland, Buy Locally is a fantastic initiative and I commend Minister Stuckey for her work in this field. As we all know, small business is a major part of the economy in Queensland. It is a major employment driver and it deserves every little bit of support that we can give in what is, after all, quite a tough time. I urge those listening tonight to, please, get out and spend your money locally, especially people in Burleigh. I encourage all members to come down and spend a week at Burleigh, shop in our many fantastic local shops around James Street, the CBD, Stocklands, Treetops and other shopping centres at Palm Beach, Varsity and Miami, and enjoy the great Buy Locally weekend.