




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Red-Tape Reduction

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.47 am): This government recognises that business growth in our state is good for jobs, individuals, communities and Queensland as a whole, but nothing hampers small business growth like red tape, so I am very pleased to inform the House of a new measure that will cut red tape for around 7,000 small businesses in Queensland. From January 2015, small and medium businesses with a payroll tax liability of less than \$20,000 will only need to lodge returns twice a year. These businesses are currently filling out paperwork every month to lodge returns on small amounts of tax paid. Now the number of forms that they will be required to fill out will be reduced from 12 to two. As well as the time spent by businesses filling out the forms, there is also the time spent by Queensland Treasury's Office of State Revenue in monitoring and compliance. We estimate that this change will save small businesses a total of about 40,000 hours of time spent on paperwork and \$2 million in administration costs.

I was fortunate to hear firsthand the benefits this change will bring when I visited Lynette and Bruce Jones at their business Queensland Sheet Metal, located in the electorate of Nudgee. On that point, can I thank the honourable member for Nudgee for joining me at the announcement we made there last Thursday. Lynette, Bruce and their three children all work in the business, producing a range of sheet metal products. In fact, they used to be known as Jones Roofing and were in the good electorate of Clayfield. But their business has been growing and expanding. They are now employing more people, and I expect even more people to be employed as a result of this change. Lynette was pleased to know that her daughter, who does the paperwork, would now have more time to devote to growing the business instead of filling out bureaucratic forms each month. Theirs is just one of many family businesses that will benefit from this common-sense improvement to managing the payroll tax for small business. That is on top of the lift in the threshold that we introduced when we first came into government and the increase by another \$100,000 that will occur on 1 July 2015.

This is just the latest reform in a wide-ranging program of red-tape reduction the government has undertaken to make it easier to do business in Queensland. Over the last two years the government has implemented hundreds of red-tape reform and reduction measures. Businesses are now spending less time filling out health and safety paperwork after we halved the number of forms required. Up to 27,000 farmers and landowners can spend more time farming now that they no longer have to renew their water licences. Plumbers and drainers can perform an expanded range of work without local government permits or mandatory inspections, saving them an estimated \$18 million. Of course, we remember a former failed member who introduced a waste tax on every business in Queensland, and we have eliminated that.

The government is committed to its target of cutting red tape by 20 per cent by 2018. By streamlining regulatory processes and reducing compliance and reporting requirements, we are helping Queensland businesses get on with growing and prospering. Only the LNP has a strong plan for cutting red tape so that Queensland businesses can enjoy a bright future.