



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGERTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Small Business**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerter—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.55 pm): Once again, we hear the opposition talking down the economy. That is all they have. They have no plan for the economy; they just talk it down.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Aspley and member for Moggill, you are walking a very tight rope at the moment.

**Ms ENOCH:** In stark contrast, the Palaszczuk government is committed to working with small business in Queensland. Last night, the Premier, the member for Morayfield and assistant minister and I hosted nearly 300 small business representatives at a Queensland small business leaders' reception here in Parliament House. The reception was the largest of its type that the Palaszczuk government has held at Parliament House, and the buzz and the energy in the room was absolutely incredible. All small businesses that were invited accepted our invitation. They wanted to be there. They want to be part of the conversation going forward about Queensland and our economy. They want to be part of that positive conversation and help plan for our economy into the future. They were very engaged and very confident about where the Palaszczuk government is headed.

The evening provided a fantastic opportunity for small business owners to speak directly with the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, many ministers and members of parliament about the challenges they face and the opportunities that they see in our economy. They were talking up our economy. I was particularly happy to see some amazing small business owners from my own electorate of Algerter take part in what was a wonderful celebration of small business in our state.

In a further boost for small business, yesterday the Queensland parliament passed the Retail Shop Leases Bill 2015, and I congratulate the Attorney-General for that. The legislation will enhance protection for retail tenants. The new legislation places safeguards around lease agreements and will make it easier for small businesses to compete with major retailers, ensuring a more level playing field in retail hot spots around the state.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of supporting small businesses, from cafe owners and electricians to app developers and beyond. Through our Advance Queensland innovation and jobs plan and our Advancing Small Business strategy, which is in the final stages of co-design and consultation, we are committed to fostering an environment in which small businesses can start, grow and employ.

Next week I will take this message to the Queensland regions, engaging with small businesses right across our state as part of Queensland's Small Business Week celebrations. Queensland's Small Business Week promises to be a huge success. The Palaszczuk government is partnering with a wide range of Queensland organisations to make more than 100 registered events available to small businesses across the state. I encourage all members to get involved. We are supporting small businesses as part of a positive plan for our economy into the future.