




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.55 pm): The Palaszczuk government has a plan for Queensland's economy and, in particular, a plan to support small business as a key driver of economic growth and employment opportunities. On that note, I would like to acknowledge the member for Ashgrove for all the work that she did as the former minister for small business. She taught me everything I know.

Our economic plan is setting the right conditions for business growth after the disaster of the Newman government. Reputable surveys, analysis and hard data show the benefits of working cooperatively with small business to generate new investment, new opportunities and new jobs. For example, the Deloitte Access Economics state outlook predicts nation-leading 3.8 per cent GSP growth to 2019 and potentially over the next decade. The NAB monthly business survey ranks us equal second with New South Wales on business confidence—trend—and ahead of Victoria. We are seeing these positive results because the Palaszczuk government is listening to small businesses and delivering programs to meet their needs.

In this year's budget we announced our \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy with direct support for business operators. It puts in place programs that help small business grow, innovate and take advantage of digital platforms. We are expanding the Mentoring for Growth program—which the former LNP government slashed \$700,000 from—an incredibly successful program. We are expanding that now to help small business meet challenges in their operations.

Yesterday I opened the \$6 million Small Business Digital Grants program to help them enter the digital economy—something the LNP would never have done. Last month the \$6 million Accelerate Small Business Grants Program was opened to support high-growth potential small businesses go to the next level by embedding high-level expertise within their enterprise, and we are acting on recommendations provided by the Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council, established by the member for Ashgrove in her time as the minister for small business, to reduce the regulatory burden for small business.

We also have a range of programs across government that are supporting small business instead of hurting small business, as the former government did. Our government has rolled out the regionally focused Back to Work program offering \$10,000 or \$15,000 incentives for engaging new staff. We have doubled the payroll tax rebate from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. By contrast, the LNP did nothing but cut jobs and services. They ignored the concerns of small business and have never stopped talking down the Queensland economy. As treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition cut small business support, he abolished the small business commissioner, oversaw \$700,000 worth of cuts to the Mentoring for Growth program and cut online business services. It is very clear that there is only one party which supports small business in Queensland, and that party is Labor.

(Time expired)