



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Go Local, Grow Local

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.39 pm): Today I can announce the Palaszczuk government is ramping up its Go Local campaign to encourage Queenslanders to support their local small businesses right across the state. Our new Go Local, Grow Local campaign launched today highlights the important role small businesses play in supporting Queensland jobs and the economy. The new campaign includes newspaper advertising and social media. It is designed to create awareness of the benefits of spending money locally and encouraging Queenslanders to proudly share their experiences supporting their local businesses.

Supporting local businesses pays off in more ways than one. Where you choose to spend your money can have a direct impact on economic growth. This support helps build strong and resilient communities, generate employment and develop civic pride and helps new businesses to start, existing businesses to grow and it puts money back into the community. Even better, it creates local jobs. This new campaign and our overarching Go Local campaign are part of the Palaszczuk government's \$4 million disaster recovery package announced in the wake of Cyclone Debbie and the subsequent weather event.

The Palaszczuk government has not forgotten about cyclone affected businesses and their families. Small business owners, operators and their families are still doing it tough after the disaster and need all the help available. The Palaszczuk government is continuing to work closely with these small business owners to help them recover. Under our \$4 million recovery package, a free counselling service is available in the affected local government areas of the Whitsunday Coast, Mackay, Isaac, Rockhampton and Logan. We are also helping 92 small businesses get back on their feet under the first round of our Small Business Recovery Grants, helping owners and operators to rebuild. These businesses will share in more than \$845,000 to engage business consultants, mentors, coaches or an advisory service to assist with their recovery.

Our Go Local and Go Local, Grow Local campaigns complement the Buy Queensland policy released last month. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting jobs for Queenslanders right across the state. Our government is serious about ensuring all of our agencies are buying local. The Palaszczuk government knows small businesses are the lifeblood of communities, particularly in our state's regional areas, and they need our support. It has not been an easy ride, but when strong communities band together and everyone from consumers, local tradies, and the government lend a helping hand, good things can happen.