




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Small Business Week

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): The last week of May delivered another fantastic Queensland Small Business Week, with a record number of events—more than 270—held across Queensland, covering more regional areas than ever before from Goondiwindi to Mount Isa and up to the Torres Strait. Businesses had the opportunity to celebrate, access support and mentoring and be inspired about the contribution they are making in every one of our Queensland communities.

During the week I had the privilege of meeting many small business owners across our great state. I had the pleasure of joining the member for Cairns to visit Andrew from Trinity Engineering and Consulting, which was one of our 19 successful businesses to share in over \$850,000 in the latest Business Growth Fund grants. Collectively these Queensland businesses expect to create 70 more jobs thanks to our grants. The week also provided the perfect opportunity to join with Jobs Queensland, CCIQ and Loganholme small business Cabinets Online—and I was joined by the member for Macalister—to launch the Workforce Planning Connect tool. Not only was Cabinets Online another Business Growth Fund success story; they have been working with Jobs Queensland and CCIQ to road-test a new toolkit for small business. This is a free resource that is now available to help small businesses plan for the future and to make sure that they have the right people with the right skills in the right positions to grow their business.

During the week, with the member for Townsville and the member for Mundingburra, I also met with many Townsville small businesses who are still working hard to get back on their feet after the devastating floods—small business like Cheapa 4 U Crane Hire. I met with owner Tony whose business was flooded but because he is located just outside of the Townsville local government area previous grants had not been available. As we said in the immediate aftermath of these floods, we are here for the long haul to help businesses. That is why I was very pleased to announce an additional \$10 million in resilience funding for small business recovery, with new grants of up to \$10,000 now open for areas including those outside of Townsville, providing much needed support to businesses like Tony's.

We closed out the week at the Taste and Trade event at the iconic Boggo Road jail. I was proud to announce a special grant for artisan producers opening in July. It was a delight to celebrate our annual Queensland Small Business Week and shine a spotlight on a sector that is the very backbone of our economy and a key contributor to the more than 199,000 jobs created since we were elected.