




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Small Business, Support

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.57 am): Since the budget was handed down I have been travelling across Queensland talking to small business owners about what the budget means for their business and how we can support them to grow and create even more jobs for Queenslanders.

This year's budget delivered big for Queensland's 438,000 small businesses. The Treasurer delivered the biggest change to payroll tax in over a decade, with an \$885 million payroll tax relief package. Under this package, the Palaszczuk government is delivering lower taxes for an estimated 13,000 businesses, making it easier for them to employ more Queenslanders.

I have heard from over 600 businesses from up in Cairns, out to Emerald and down to the Redlands as part of our small business roadshow and the response has been overwhelming. On the Sunshine Coast, Roz White, owner of White's Grocers, said they are about to create over 100 new jobs and the payroll tax package would reduce their tax bill, making it easier to employ more people. In the Whitsundays, QIT Plus CEO Chris Madsen said that, as a regional employer, payroll tax was a burden on his company and he was so pleased to see the threshold was being raised to support more Queensland businesses.

This government is backing small business and jobs. In Cairns I met Rachel from FNQ Food Incubator, who was also excited about our Artisan Producers Grant. She was thrilled to see the government supporting artisan producers and investing in the growth of the sector. In Stafford I met Pauline who recently received one of our small business grants and, as a result, is seeing her business thrive.

We have also received some invaluable feedback from small businesses on how we can improve the support that we give them. Businesses told me that they want more notice of our small business grants so that they can better plan for and prepare their applications. As a result, I am pleased to say that we have now published our schedule of grants for the next financial year so that businesses can better plan ahead and prepare their applications. On top of that, we are investing a further \$14 million for Back to Work, \$4 million to continue our successful small business grants and our new \$32 million free apprenticeships initiative will back businesses by covering the training costs when they take on an apprentice or trainee. This is all part of the Palaszczuk government's plan to support our small businesses to grow and employ more Queenslanders.