




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Economic Response; Nudgee Electorate, Small Business Grants

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.58 pm): We all know the global economy has been hit hard by COVID-19. As Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said, we as a state are currently in an enviable position with our economy able to reopen more quickly because Queenslanders came together with a strong health response, but there is a long road to recovery ahead. Our government is not waiting to see what this pandemic will do next. We are acting now to deliver the necessary investment and economic activity required to keep Queenslanders in jobs and to create more jobs in more industries to stimulate growth, business confidence and investment.

As outlined earlier this week by our Queensland Treasurer, recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows signs of a tentative improvement in our domestic economy. Retail sales in Queensland increased by 1.5 per cent over the 12 months to June, the largest increase among eastern states and in contrast to the 2.4 per cent decline nationally. While the number of jobs has fallen by 5.6 per cent across Australia since mid-March, the five per cent fall in Queensland is the smallest fall among eastern states, and Queensland was the only state or territory to see a fall in its unemployment rate in June.

There are signs of a tentative improvement in our domestic economy but with a long road ahead. Now more than ever our economy and businesses need support and stimulus to generate economic activity and encourage growth. Our economic recovery plan is about just that: bringing forward investment in infrastructure, buying locally in Queensland and supporting Queensland industries and businesses because that means Queensland jobs. The Queensland small business adaption grants are one very practical example of how our government is supporting small businesses impacted by COVID-19. These grants help businesses to adapt and sustain their operations and build resilience.

Last week I took the opportunity to visit a number of the many local businesses in my electorate that have received a Queensland small business grant. In Banyo I dropped by Explosive Sportswear to catch up with Tony, Brett, Waldon and Kye to see how they are coping. This small team manufactures on site and experienced a significant downturn when club sport was unable to go ahead due to restrictions. Business has since picked up and I wish them all the very best as they continue their road to recovery.

Last week also at Banyo I dropped in to see Steve, the owner of the Photo Booth Guys. Locally based but operating Australia-wide, the members of this team are experts in awesome visual experiences. From capturing magical party and wedding moments to putting something bespoke together, Steve used his \$10,000 grant to diversify his business through the use of new technology to adapt and sustain operations.

Last month I visited Bells Property Services in Virginia which secured \$10,000 to cover legal costs for a new technology service it is seeking to launch later this year to augment its existing building facade inspection services. The Village Social in Nundah is another to receive a \$10,000 grant, as is RampAttak Indoor Skatepark in Geebung, Fick Brewing in Northgate and Zillmere Dentists, among many others.