




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Algester Electorate, Coronavirus Response

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (7.23 pm): In the midst of the global pandemic, what has been made abundantly clear is the strength of Queensland's community spirit. In recent weeks, the news about people who travelled to Victoria and then returned to Queensland angered and upset many, particularly across my electorate of Algester. Every Queenslander has been making sacrifices for months now for the health and safety of the whole state, and I know the action of these individuals was disappointing.

However, Queensland stood strong. As the Premier and the Chief Health Officer have pointed out, people came forward quickly and responsibly to get tested and to ensure that we could prevent any potential spread of the virus. In my electorate of Algester in particular, locals were frustrated and concerned about having positive cases within our local community. However, hundreds of people flocked to fever clinics and hospitals for testing, and they have done an amazing job. The Algester community has shown strength and humility. The 'get in and get it done attitude' that Queenslanders and those in the Algester electorate are best known for was well and truly on display. Through flood, fire and now pandemic, our community remains stronger than ever. I want to pay special tribute to Belong in Acacia Ridge which have continued to assist many local residents throughout the pandemic and during this latest threat to the hard work of the community. I also mention our schools, which have stepped up every day to support students and their families.

It does not stop there. Although locals in the Algester electorate have worked hard to keep COVID-19 out of our community, the impacts have been felt far and wide financially and emotionally. Some small businesses in Algester remain closed, while others have had to cut back their opening hours and make do with the little income they have. I am proud to be part of a government that has recognised that small businesses in particular require a boost right now. In my electorate of Algester, small businesses recently received over \$1.1 million as part of the Palaszczuk government's Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant. From hairdressers to home sellers, chiropractors to coffee shops, travel agents and tax accountants, Algester's small businesses have the support of the Palaszczuk government. That means that rents can be paid, staff can remain employed and services can be implemented during this difficult time.

I have been fortunate enough to meet with some of the many small business grant recipients across the Algester electorate in the past few weeks and months. Their determination and resilience is simply awe-inspiring. For example, brothers David and Andrew Harvey from Trailer Spare Parts Australia in Archerfield received \$10,000 for their small business to supply, install and integrate accounting software. The integration will assist their business to increase and optimise online sales, allowing them to remain competitive during these tough times and beyond. I am absolutely proud to be the member for Algester and to see incredible work happening in our electorate.