



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Coronavirus, Small Business**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government continues to back our local homegrown businesses. During COVID-19, we know our small businesses have been doing it tough. We have a plan to unite and recover for Queensland and support our local businesses to keep their doors open and keep providing jobs for Queenslanders. Measures our government has already introduced include the Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program, energy rebates, payroll tax relief, interest-free loans and free online training.

Just yesterday, the Premier extended the support for small businesses with a further \$100 million under a second round of small business COVID adaptation grant funding. Businesses like the Kuranda Pet Resort in Cairns have already benefited from the first round of grants. Owners Diane Ward and Graham Wright lost 95 per cent of their business income during the pandemic. They will use the \$10,000 grant to upgrade the dogs' outdoor exercise equipment—great for the dogs—as well as kick off a digital marketing campaign to drive more customers to their business. I am also proud that just last month we set a target to make sure we support our local businesses even more.

Queensland is a leader once again. We are the first state to set a target of 25 per cent of all government spend on goods and services to go to Queensland small and medium sized businesses. Not only are we the first state, but our 25 per cent target is well above the Commonwealth target of 10 per cent. This means \$4 billion back in the hands of Queensland small and medium businesses. We will increase that target to 30 per cent by 2022.

We have everyday Queenslanders who run small and medium businesses producing top-quality products—businesses like local manufacturer Macrack in Mansfield which has produced its high-quality pallet racking for the department of natural resources and energy. Whether it is pallet racking from the southern suburbs of Brisbane or serving up Torres Strait crayfish in the Parliament House dining room, we know we have the best right here in Queensland. The government is a huge customer and our plan is to buy Queensland and back Queensland jobs. We have a plan for Queensland to kickstart Queensland's economy together, and those opposite are a risk to this plan.