




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Small Business

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government knows our small businesses have been doing it tough during the global coronavirus pandemic which has impacted economies across Australia and around the globe. Because of the great job we have done managing the health response to COVID-19, we can now start delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. Part of that plan is about backing our small businesses and the Queenslanders they employ. Never before has this level of support been provided for our small businesses.

We are the only state that has offered almost \$200 million in grant funding, \$1 billion in interest free loans and payroll tax relief. We are also the only state to introduce a small and medium business procurement target of 25 per cent. It is about putting our money where our mouth is and buying products from local business. We are committed to continuing to support small businesses through the recovery.

Our small business grants have already helped almost 6,000 Queensland businesses impacted by the pandemic: businesses such as the Townsville Brewing Co. which was able to use its \$10,000 grant to help keep the beer cold and the business going during hibernation. They are also helping business owners like Jeff and Darlene who run Salads Made Fresh in the Redlands. They had to swiftly adapt their business for a new client base following the pandemic, going from supplying larger restaurants and RSLs to individuals in retirement villages. The grant has meant they can now set up a website with online ordering to make it easier for them to get food to their clients.

It is not just our grants that are helping businesses get through. Adnought Sheet Metal Fabrication in Rockhampton has been a fantastic supplier to government, supplying steel trolleys for the local hospital and air-conditioning cages for some of our local schools. Our business procurement target will ensure we do business with more local small businesses like Adnought, supporting them with about \$4 billion each year. We are also supporting our businesses with our free apprenticeships for under 21s initiative by removing the cost of training so they can skill up more local sheet metal workers in Central Queensland. The Palaszczuk government will continue to support our small businesses on our long road to recovery. This is all part of our plan to keep our businesses running and keep Queenslanders in jobs.