



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.03 pm): Thousands of Queensland small businesses have benefited from our first round of COVID adaptation grants which have allowed so many small businesses to keep their doors open through the crisis. One of those businesses in my electorate is Extraction Artisan Coffee in Slacks Creek. It is one of over 900 recipients of grants in Logan. Extraction epitomises the strength and resilience of our community. It is going to use the grant to hire a local artist to help it promote the wholesale side of its business and paint a new mural. Murals are what Extraction is famous for, so that is great news. I call on everyone in Waterford to make sure that they grab a coffee from Extraction.

Speaking of local businesses, we have partnered with Go1, an international online training company based at Underwood in Logan. In a world first, it is helping to deliver free online training to Queensland businesses and jobseekers. Our 'Netflix for training' is giving employers, operators and jobseekers access to over 400 free online courses—courses on everything from how to write a CV to customer engagement to business leadership.

Speaking of skills, one of my favourite schools—Mabel Park State High School—launched its beauty salon Inspire in 2019 which has been a great success. Not only do students gain a fantastic qualification; Principal Mick Hornby says that local businesses have such a high demand for qualified beauticians that they want to hire students before they have even finished their course.

Skilling programs like this are what make Queensland a national leader in VET in schools. While we are maintaining a strong focus on VET in schools, we are also ensuring that we continue to help Queenslanders back to work. Back to Work has helped tens of thousands of Queenslanders gain meaningful employment and, now with a \$70 million extension, businesses can hire an eligible apprentice and trainee while receiving a \$20,000 boost. Thanks to this program, Logan business Mine Signs has hired two apprentices, Gemma and Braden, while also helping the business purchase new equipment. Owner Carl Merz said that the grant had given it the opportunity to grow its business.

We continue to invest a record amount in infrastructure to futureproof Queensland. Stage 2 of the M1 upgrade is well underway, supporting over 700 Queensland jobs. With regard to the Kingston Butter Factory, I was very pleased to join the Minister for Local Government and the mayor of Logan to announce a \$6.5 million investment to transform the butter factory into a world-class performing arts and cultural precinct. As I said on the day, Logan is one of the most diverse communities in this country and it does deserve its own world-class performing arts centre. The upgrade from our COVID Works for Queensland program is supporting 150 local jobs. As Queensland continues to recover post COVID, we are continuing to invest in the programs that back Queenslanders because only through this can we truly kick-start our economy and get Queensland and Logan back on track.