




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Sandgate Electorate, Small Business

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.27 pm): Small businesses are the lifeblood of a community such as my Sandgate electorate. Without the support of people who live in our part of the north side, dozens of small businesses would be in real trouble. As it is, facing difficult global economic conditions, many continue to have an uncertain future. Tonight, I thank local residents for their support of our local businesses over the past few months. During the pandemic—and particularly when restrictions began to ease—I sought to find out how our businesses were coping, how they were rising to the challenge of the times and what they were doing to keep themselves and their staff in work.

Family owned cafes in Sandgate including Warm Discussions, Satori Organics and Soda Shoppe introduced a COVID-19 takeaway menu and are now slowly opening up to more customers. Satori Organics maintained a regular market stall so we could continue to access fresh produce from Sunshine Coast farmers. All our cafes and restaurants have taken similar steps to survive. I have also ducked into Bean N Loaf at Fitzgibbon, Darun Thai at Taigum, the Shelley Inn at Shorncliffe and Bracken Ridge's Three Wise Monkeys and Round Table Coffee, and they have all made adjustments. As the road map reopens dining options, I found I spent time with Bryan of the famously good Ilforno Pizzeria in Fourth Avenue, Sandgate, to check out the way he was implementing the COVID-safe industry plan.

All business owners and managers were so grateful for the support they had received and are receiving from the Sandgate community. As I was further discussing last week with Sandgate Chamber of Commerce president Bill Gollan, we have a great culture of local shopping but the pandemic has seen this practice enhanced. They were also grateful for the Palaszczuk government's swift action in flattening the curve and for the generous grants and rebates being provided to help Queensland unite and recover. I visited Sam, the owner of Her Style Hair in Bracken Ridge, who, like so many others in that sector, was excited to see her customers, especially elderly customers, cautiously return. 'What about other retailers?' I hear you ask, Mr Deputy Speaker. Danielle from Something About Audrey has been pleased with the Palaszczuk government's help but also told me about how she has adapted her business to more online sales to make up for her reduced foot traffic. Similarly, Chris and Annalisse at Sweet Georgia have pivoted strongly to their online sales.

We also are famous for our great local watering holes. While I took advantage of the Full Moon Hotel's drive-through takeaway service which saved the day, especially with some very hungry and large, hollow-legged children at home, it was very informative to have a Zoom meeting with owners of local venues like the Post Office Hotel, Mr Henderson and one of the largest employers in my electorate, the Bracken Ridge Tavern. I cannot mention every small business and medium business in my electorate. Instead, I want to take my remaining time to say thank you—thank you as we unite and recover, thank you to all the small businesses who kept locals in jobs, thank you to those who have tried, thank you to those who have adapted and thank you to all the residents of Sandgate and all visitors who have helped keep these businesses going.

(Time expired)