



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Aspley Electorate, Small Business

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.14 pm): As it is Small Business Month, I am very pleased to speak about some of the fantastic small businesses in the Aspley electorate. As we all know, it has been a tough 12 months for many small businesses, but I am constantly in awe of how they have been able to adapt to change and evolve their business models locally throughout this health pandemic and through the varying levels of restrictions of different types they have had to face. Cafes have adapted and changed, sports clubs have shifted their menus to takeaway and many have continued their innovative approaches as COVID-19 restrictions have continued to ease. Small businesses truly are the lifeblood of our local economy and are a vital cornerstone of our economic recovery plan.

At the height of COVID-19, I partnered with Aspley Hornets, Matthew Thomas Cafe and the amazing Dana from Stellarossa Aspley to provide free coffees to our local retail workers. It was great to see these businesses stepping up to contribute to the spirit of our community during a tough time. Retail workers did it particularly tough in 2020, so I was very happy to show my appreciation in a small way.

At a recent mobile office I spoke with Kevin Russell, managing director at Freemont Business Solutions in Geebung. Kevin runs a bookkeeping business and is passionate about assisting local businesses in our area. Kevin also informed me that he was awarded one of our COVID-19 adaptation grants and has been able to use the grant to promote his business and revamp his website. I also mention the nearby Gopher Coffee, which does great coffee in Geebung, and Peach Tree Perinatal Wellness Centre, which is a really great resource for local mums.

I also must give a shout-out to some of my office neighbours who are outstanding small businesses and lunch destinations including Dosa Hut Aspley, which makes some of the best biryanis you can get, and Fish on Line, run by great local couple Melinda and David. If you like calamari and chips, it is definitely a place to visit. There are plenty of great food options near my office. I cannot list them all. Maybe there are too many for the likes of me! I give a great shout-out to the Coffee Club Aspley, which has supported some great causes recently in our community, including raising funds for breast cancer research at its recent Breast Night Ever event.

Speaking of locals doing great things in our community, I give a shout-out to two of our local kindies in Geebung: Lady Gowrie-Marchant Park Kindergarten and C&K Geebung Kindergarten. For the latter, I acknowledge committee president Shae Bishop. Recently, I visited both kindergartens and had the privilege of conducting a story time, which I hope I did justice. I also toured some of the new community projects including Marchant Park's kindergarten recycling hub, which is a great initiative. The kids liked my reading so much they did not even want me to read the book a second time!

These fantastic community organisations are doing great work and, hopefully, soon they can see the light at the end of the tunnel as we get back to more of a normal state. In this Small Business Month I wanted to give a shout-out to some great locals doing great things in the Aspley area.