



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**

**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Small Business, Pressures; Sippy Downs, Roadworks**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.24 pm): The pressures small and family businesses are under now are unlike anything we have seen in our lifetime. Small business owners are working harder than ever just to keep their businesses alive, but for many every phone call is a customer cancelling a booking or a supplier looking for payment. Increasingly, business owners have also had to cut staff just to stay afloat. That means that they are alone and left to answer the phones and respond to emails every hour of the day and night, and that takes a toll. Many small and family business owners are at breaking point. The combined burden of months of uncertainty and the feeling that they have been abandoned has resulted in thousands of small business owners who simply do not know if they can carry on.

Across the state when I have met with small business owners over recent months the strain has been written across their faces: worry about where the cash is going to come from to pay the next bill; sleepless nights agonising about how to keep employees in a job; and hearts breaking watching a lifetime's work building a flourishing small business only to see it crumbling before their eyes. That tidal wave of anguish is now manifesting itself in mental health issues which, if not addressed, will tear apart the fabric of our community. Many small business owners have poured everything into their business and too often they put themselves last. While that may be a recipe for business success, when it comes to mental health challenges it is a recipe for disaster. Small and family businesses are the threads that bind our community together. We cannot afford to lose the small and family businesses that give so much, so now is the time for all of us to reach out to them in their hour of need. Help is available for them, but more needs to be done.

Before my time expires I would like to address the concerns of my local residents in Sippy Downs, who for years have had to bear the brunt of noise and dust associated with roadworks. For many years those same residents have sought relief from unbearable road noise emanating from the Bruce Highway, but to date they have been ignored by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Despite houses sitting 60 metres away from the edge of a road where cars and trucks loudly accelerate to 110 kilometres an hour, the best the minister has been able to do to date is build a two-metre wooden paling fence that achieves next to nothing.

On Tuesday a petition with 499 signatures was presented to the parliament calling on the minister to build a noise barrier along Bellflower Road in the vicinity of the Bruce Highway. My message to the minister is: listen to local voices. Too often we have seen this state government ignore the needs of Sunshine Coast locals. I will continue to fight to ensure that the voices of Sippy Downs residents are listened to.