




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Ommaney, Small Business Awards

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.27 pm): Thanks to the Premier's strong leadership in Queensland, we are open for business and our economic recovery is underway. In Mount Ommaney, that means it is time for our annual small business awards. Nominations are now open for businesses based in Mount Ommaney to be nominated by locals for the Mount Ommaney Logies, as we like to call them. They are kind of a big deal.

I remember speaking with the member for Springwood a while ago when he told me he had a butcher friend in the electorate who was very keen to get nominated for one of these awards. That was a few years ago and he has been a steady nominee ever since and he does quite well. I understand he had a baby last year, along with pretty much everybody else in Mount Ommaney. Congratulations to him. There is something in the water.

My office organises these awards in conjunction with our local chamber of commerce. I congratulate the new chamber of commerce president, Brent Cue. He is an energetic and amazing addition to the role of president. He is an absolute dynamo and I really think the chamber will go from strength to strength under his leadership. Despite some tough operating conditions under COVID, we do have several new businesses that have nominated this year—many of which have only just recently opened, which is really exciting.

Vicki Hair Creations in Darra is run by longtime Darra local Vicki Harriden, who has set up in her home. This is an increasing trend we are seeing during COVID as more and more people are discovering and enjoying the benefits of working at home. We have longtime locals Achilles Concrete Services. I am sure they are very busy this year. Above and Beyond Fitness who go—say it with me now—above and beyond has a nutritionist, an accountability coach and a whole lot more. I have not heard a lot about these sorts of things in this realm before, but it sounds pretty fantastic to me.

We have a fantastic new local cafe in Westlake that I have been to for coffee, To Be or Not To Be. This is the second restaurant. They are all Shakespearian themed. It is a great spot for a girls lunch or a baby shower.

Sheena's coffee van at the Darra BMX park is perfect for those cold winter days watching the kids go around and around on their bikes or scooters, which can take several hours of our time. Of course, Forest and Petal is a beautiful new florist in Riverhills. They have saved my bacon whenever I have needed a birthday gift at the last minute this year. These Mount Ommaney businesses have shown real confidence opening during this time, a testament to the confidence that exists in the business community.

I finish with a plea to every single Queenslanders who is yet to get vaccinated. I ask that you please protect yourselves and your loved ones. It is our best weapon to protect our community and especially our vulnerable Queenslanders from COVID. We need every single Queenslanders who can roll up their sleeves to do so, to get it done. I say 'well done' to my big baby girl Allegra. She recently turned 12 and got her first job yesterday.