




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 27 May 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Small Business, Grants

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.33 pm): Small businesses are the lifeblood of our local community in Bundamba and I am proud to be part of a Labor government that is helping them bounce back better. As part of Queensland Small Business Month, we announced another \$25 million to support our small businesses through three new grants programs. We know that some of our businesses continue to experience tough times, and we also know that they are at different stages of their development. That is why our Business Basics grants of up to \$5,000 each support new and emerging businesses, we have Business Boost grants up to \$15,000 to back our small businesses, and the \$50,000 Business Growth Fund supports the purchase of highly specialised equipment to boost growth.

Small businesses, like ours in Bundamba, employ locals and support local communities. They help our households and they keep money in our local economy. They sponsor our sports teams like the Goodna Eagles, Bundamba Strollers, Ipswich Knights, Western Pride, Western Spirit, Collingwood Park Power, and the mighty Dinmore Bushrats. They back our community groups like Queensland Youth and Families Support Services, The Base, Goodna Neighbourhood House, PACCA and Helen's Haven.

'Support small' is more than just a hashtag or a saying. Across Ipswich we continue to enjoy a busy and successful Small Business Month. Our two-day Ipswich Business Expo starts tomorrow at the Ipswich Showgrounds. Backed by a \$10,000 Queensland small business partnership grant, the expo will showcase local businesses while also providing opportunities for start-ups to access information and advice.

I was proud to join representatives from a number of businesses including Just Cuts Redbank and Big Belly cafe and restaurant from Goodna to mark the start of Small Business Month in Ipswich, hosted by our Minister for Small Business. Some of the team from our local Amaroo Landscape Group attended Queensland Small Business Month celebrations here in the House. Our Black Coffee—Ipswich continues to go from strength to strength. The monthly catch-ups offer business networking opportunities for our local First Nations organisations. Supporters include providers like Wesbro Services, Anglicare, Rural Lifestyle Options Australia and Blue Care; independent artists like the Wurrumay Collective and KJH Artworks; emerging businesses like Amaroo and Tagai Management Consultants; and homegrown foodie success story FigJam and Co.

This sense of spirit and support is all about action, a word at the very heart of Reconciliation Week 2021, which starts today. We all have a role to play. Reconciliation is more than just a word.