




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate; Small Business Month

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.09 pm): I am very pleased to speak tonight about the wonderful small businesses in my electorate of Waterford because it is Small Business Month. We have a whole month to celebrate our businesses. At the start and during much of COVID-19 I saw firsthand how many businesses had to face new challenges. I spoke to many small businesses that struggled but persevered and fortunately many of them were able to weather the pandemic and the changes it brought.

On the weekend I joined innovative business Flowerhub at the opening of Logan's very own flower market, the Southside Flower Market. Nicki and Milly Christensen and the team at Flowerhub have been through tough times but they have turned those challenges into fantastic business opportunities. With a huge demand for online shopping, even more so for local flowers, it was good to see Flowerhub step up production and grow their business during what was a challenging year.

This year's theme for small business month is #bouncebackbetter and it is certainly fitting as our local economic recovery from the pandemic continues. Local brewers like Dean Forte from Monkey Tree was a strong advocate for our new artisan producer liquor licence. When we announced the licence Dean said that it would provide a framework for all microbrewers and microdistillers to work together which will help the sector flourish as COVID restrictions begin to ease.

Logan businesses are leading the way. Businesses like Munster Mechanical—Eric and Laura Guthrie are incredibly hardworking business leaders in our community—and Alex Milosevic and Heather Scott from Extraction Coffee. These two businesses do a lot to partner with our local high schools to provide training opportunities for the next generation. These partnerships are helping young people gain invaluable experience, skills, confidence and it allows them to discover new career options. The key to Logan's business success is this spirit of collaboration and supporting the community.

I could not end tonight without a shout-out to a local business owner and a very dear friend of mine, Pearl Tumata. Pearl's Cafe, or as it is really known, the Waterford coffee pot, is a local institution. Pearl embodies the spirit of the Logan business community. She is one of the leaders of our local Maori community and she has mentored other aspiring businesswomen to open their own businesses, including her niece, Kylie Lowery, who now has the successful How We Roll Cafe & Hangi in Loganlea. If anyone is after some hangi it is a fantastic cafe to visit.

Finally, I want to give a very special shout-out to Rebecca Cobbing, Leigh Mitchell and the team at the White House of Waterford who just celebrated their fifth birthday. Happy birthday to the White House of Waterford and thank you to all of our Waterford small businesses for their contribution to building back better in Waterford.