




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Cook Electorate, Small Business

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (6.26 pm): I recently had the opportunity to travel to Cooktown with assistant minister Nikki Boyd and the Small Business Commissioner to sign the Small Business Friendly Council Charter between the Queensland government and Cook Shire Council. I am proud that Cook Shire Council became one of 30 councils in Queensland to sign up to the Small Business Friendly program in Queensland and joins the Mareeba Shire Council and Douglas Shire Council, which both became signatories last year. This is a significant step towards forging a strong partnership with the Queensland government in support of small business in the region. Small businesses are the engine room of these shires and it is important that we support them. I acknowledge and thank the local councils in my electorate for the work they do to advocate in the best interests of the business community. Although the business sector does not fall in line with local government core responsibilities, this has not stopped any of my local councils picking up the bat for local businesses.

This charter will give local businesses the certainty they need during these unprecedented times. Small business owners face many challenges and during the pandemic these challenges were heightened, putting enormous pressure on businesses to survive in the COVID world. Having something firm such as the small business charter in place will only help council to better work with businesses to navigate a range of complexities and the economic impacts that are outside their control: increased competition, finding customers and dealing with government red tape.

I want to give a shout-out to the many businesses in my electorate that are absolute champions, and I will name a few: Mareeba's Hungry Pug, the Mareeba Deli, Beechwoods Cafe in Mossman, Driftwood in Cooktown, Mossman Custom Kitchens, Ma Kai Cafe on Thursday Island, Elite 818 in the Douglas shire, Furious Fitness in Mareeba, Western Cape Eco Tours, Solar Whisper in Port Douglas, Port Douglas Automotive car workshop, Jacques Coffee Plantation and Coffee Works, amongst the many others in my electorate.

I love visiting small businesses in my electorate because they do more than deliver a service: they continue to support and give the community an experience that only small businesses can deliver. They welcome all of their customers with a warm, friendly smile, a chat and a good laugh that no money can buy.