




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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ADJOURNMENT

Small Business Month; Toombul Shopping Centre

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.22 pm): This month is Queensland Small Business Month. It is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contribution that small businesses make to our local communities and across Queensland, and of course to pay special tribute to their incredible resilience over the past two years of COVID. They stimulate the economy, create local jobs and are part of the very foundation of a strong and connected community. That is why Small Business Month is also a time to remind our communities to shop local and support families, friends and neighbours.

My community is a real village. Whether it is Nundah, Banyo, Boondall or Zillmere, we really ban together and support our local community—our village. That is what has made the recent news of the Toombul Shopping Centre closing due to catastrophic flood damage such a blow to my community and our village. It has created an uncertain future for many of the businesses that operated there.

I want to assure my community that I continue to work alongside the Queensland Small Business Commissioner to see that every available support is provided to those tenants as they move forward. Soon after the floods, the federal member for Lilley, Anika Wells, and I held an information session onsite for tenants, with representatives of local, state and federal agencies, to provide information on available grants and supports. Now that tenants have received formal notices terminating their leases, I want to see them receive any and all available support under the terms of their contracts and the Retail Shop Leases Act where relevant. I will also continue to advocate to the site owner, Mirvac, and the Brisbane City Council for real and meaningful consultation on any future plans on that site.

The community outpouring that has followed this news has been a testament to the people of my local community and their support, which runs deep for our local businesses and the people who work within them. My electorate is made up of a rich and diverse business community, from hospitality to fitness, trade services and manufacturing. I cannot recognise every one of them in the time I have left tonight—I cannot come close—but I can shine a light on just a few in honour of Small Business Month.

It is with much warmth and local pride that I acknowledge Louisa and her gorgeous team at The Closet in Banyo—Australia's biggest online fashion reseller. They are passionate about fashion recycling to combat the huge impact that discarded fast fashion is having on the environment. I dropped out there recently and had a fabulous time with Louisa, discussing how she can take her business to the next level. Stevie and Nadia established Active Truth in Nundah. It is an online activewear company that is channelling stereotypes and bias around body image. There are no photo shopping of models there; just real women celebrating and loving how they look. A warm shout-out to the father-and-son team of Geoff and Michael at Laws Laser cutting service in Geebung. Recently, they received a state government grant. A warm hello goes to Sharlene at Big Dad's Pies at Boondall who welcomes everyone with a smile.