




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER BILL

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.08 pm), continuing: The bill provides that the commissioner will advise an alternate dispute resolution service and mediation process for small business lease disputes, rental tenancy disputes and small business franchise disputes.

Small business has done it tough throughout COVID and continues to do so. Many in the south-east corner are now suffering the effects of water inundation from the recent floods and are at their most vulnerable. Those who have suffered structural damage are faced with a long delay as they seek to have repairs done. This is at a time where there is a shortage of building supplies and materials, which is resulting in a dramatic price increase, putting budgets under immense pressure. We are seeing some price increases of over 100 per cent in a week and wait times of many months.

There is a severe shortage of skilled workers across many industries such as builders, boilermakers, mechanics and chefs. You name the trade and there is a shortage. Small business is and always has been the backbone of our economy, but they are facing challenging times not helped by ever-increasing regulation and red tape. Hopefully the establishment of the Small Business Commissioner will alleviate some of these issues for those who are caught up in some of these disputes. The LNP will be supporting the bill; however, the member for Buderim will move some commonsense amendments that would further enhance the scope of the Small Business Commissioner's role.