




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Small and Family Business

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.36 pm): Queensland's small and family businesses are suffering, but if you only read the state government media releases or if, God forbid, you only listened to ministerial statements, you could be forgiven for thinking that things have never been better. Whether it is skyrocketing electricity prices, a chronic shortage of labour, interest rates that are through the roof, crime, crumbling roads or the inadequate delivery of the most basic of government services, small and family businesses in Queensland have had enough.

A Cairns small business owner I recently met with observed that it is only governments that think they should be judged on the amount of money they spend rather than on the outcomes they deliver. She makes a pretty good point. Compare that approach with that of small and family business. At a time of record inflation, businesses know that every single dollar counts. In an environment of ever-increasing interest rates, small business owners scrutinise the allocation of every single dollar under a lens of efficiency, return on investment and timeliness.

This Palaszczuk Labor government likes to crow about record spends, but whether it is on health, crime or the delivery of government services, the truth is that performance is deteriorating. The facts are that, under Labor, Australia now has the highest level of core inflation of all advanced economies in the world. Electricity prices in Queensland have skyrocketed 32.5 per cent in the last quarter alone. Government members like to crow about the fact that they own the assets so they control the prices, but in both New South Wales and Victoria electricity prices dropped in the last quarter. How is that helping Queensland households, Queensland families and Queensland small and family businesses? The question has to be asked: why is Queensland failing on these most basic of measures?

At a time when supply chains are already straining under the load, Labor have increased the charges on heavy vehicle operators by 19 per cent. That is an increased cost that will be paid by families and small and family businesses in the form of more expensive food, more expensive fuel and more expensive goods. What have we heard from this state Labor government? Nothing. The cost of the Palaszczuk Labor government's crime epidemic lands with home owners and small business owners, who keep getting raided. When businesses are broken into, it is the owners who must close their doors, cancel shifts and replace stock. They pay for repairs; they pay for more expensive insurance premiums. That is the real cost of Labor's crime epidemic.

Queenslanders everywhere are paying the price for the Palaszczuk Labor government's inability to manage. Small businesses have told me that they are sick of the Palaszczuk Labor government ignoring them. They tell me that they are sick of this Palaszczuk Labor government being only interested in the photo op and forgetting about the follow-up. Queenslanders deserve better, and it is only an LNP government that will deliver for Queensland's small and family businesses.