




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Cooper Electorate, Small Businesses; Eco Forum

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.20 pm): I rise this evening to update the House on a couple of recent activities in the Cooper electorate. First, I want to thank those small businesses which attended our recent small business breakfast that was held in May in Small Business Month. The theme for that month was ‘Smallbiz make amazing happen’. We certainly do have a bunch of amazing small businesses in our electorate.

We have The Junk Bar, a little kind of boutique bar in Ashgrove which does an amazing job of featuring local artists and up-and-coming musos. We have Colin Bushell, who is a local photographer. I think Colin is busier than I am. He is at every event that I go to, making sure he captures the moment for every community event. He is such a fantastic ambassador for our area. Kathleen Luck runs Brisbane Inner West Realty. I cannot talk too much about what Kathleen has been working on lately, but she is certainly going above and beyond to help families who are very vulnerable at the moment and she is helping to get their properties listed for sale.

We have about 7,000 registered small businesses in Cooper in a wide range of industries. I learned recently that about 1,000 people who are employed in the manufacturing sector live in Cooper. We have a number of microbusinesses, particularly in the creative communities and professional services, and there are a lot of people working in health care. We certainly have a wide variety of organisations.

We had around 50 local businesses attend the breakfast. I thank the Paddo hotel for hosting the breakfast and supporting us to put that on again. They are a fantastic organisation that give us a lot of support. Dominique Lamb, who is the Queensland Small Business Commissioner, came along. She is a dynamo of a woman. People were enthralled with her conversation in detailing the work of the Office of the Small Business Commissioner, particularly around dispute mediation. She went through all of the roles and services that the Queensland government offers for small business. It was a really fantastic discussion and it was great to host it.

We have our Eco Forum coming up. It is something that we host every year in July at The Gap State School, and we will be having it again there this year. The date is Saturday, 15 July. It will be running for most of the day and it kicks off at 10 o'clock in the morning. We have been blessed to have a number of ministers and keynote speakers come to that every year. This year we have been able to lock in the new environment minister, Minister Linard. Senator Murray Watt representing his portfolio is coming out to talk about how we manage that growing area around agriculture and preservation of space. We also have some fantastic local organisations, including the Queensland Conservation Council and WWF. Jerry Coleby-Williams usually comes, which reminds me that I need to text him and ask him if he is coming along. He is a fantastic guy from *Gardening Australia* who comes along and supports us every year. There is no cost to the event. The Gap Sustainability Initiative will be there talking about our platypus project. Make sure you come along.