



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Kurwongbah Electorate, Small Business

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.28 pm): I rise to contribute tonight on a topic I have spoken regularly about in this place because of its importance in my electorate of Kurwongbah and all over Queensland. I am talking about small business. I want to thank the representatives from local businesses who took time out of their always busy schedules to come along to my networking and nibbles event last Thursday. I give a shout-out to Narangba Valley Tavern for hosting us and catering the nibbles. We have never had a bad review. The place always looks after everyone, so I give a shout-out to them because they are fantastic.

This time I invited some local sports clubs to join in this event. We expect sports clubs to run like a business, although they do not have the wages, and it was really good that some of them came along. It helps to open up community partnerships and mentoring opportunities, so it was good that a couple of them came along.

I also want to extend a special thankyou to Queensland's new Small Business Commissioner, Dominique Lamb, who came to the event. As well as presenting a snapshot of what our government offers to small businesses as guest speaker, Ms Lamb took the time to speak to everyone individually to find out the issues that are at the forefront of the minds of all our local businesses. The conversations were really appreciated by everyone there.

I also want to thank Peter from the Small Business Commissioner's office, and Alana and Amanda from the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training for their attendance and the awesome amount of knowledge they were able to impart to our small businesses. I think we will see some really tangible outcomes as a result of the information which was made available to everyone on the day.

I will quickly mention some of the assistance that businesses can access through the Office of the Small Business Commissioner that we all found out about on the day. On any issues involving dispute resolution, including mediation for retail tenancy lease and franchise disputes advocacy, they can help small business to get a better deal broadly through policy development and on a case-by-case level, helping in negotiations with utility companies, for example. They also help businesses navigate through government processes, and we all know that can be sometimes a bit of fun. In regards to connections, they can provide a central point of contact connecting businesses with other services they need, such as a small business financial counselling program, the industry workforce adviser program or mentoring for growth—free programs funded by the government. They can help to get tax advice as well as other matters. Importantly, as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19, they provide access to Beyond Blue's free mental health coaching program, called NewAccess.

I want to conclude by encouraging every small business to check out the support that is on offer for them. There really is so much out there; you just need to know how to find it. Visiting the website [qsbcc.qld.gov.au](http://qsbcc.qld.gov.au) is an excellent starting point. I have run a few of these forums. They are amazing, and the businesses that come along always get value from it.