



Speech By  
**Ali King**


**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

### **Pumicestone Electorate, Small Business**

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.16 pm): In very good news, the Pumicestone Small Business Awards are back for 2024. Last year, I hosted the inaugural Pumicestone Small Business Awards to spotlight our unique small businesses in Pumicestone and the hardworking locals behind them. As a former small business owner myself, I know that running a small business can be tough. The hours are very long and you can feel very alone. Therefore, we designed our Pumicestone Small Business Awards to recognise and thank our local small business owners for the crucial role they play in our local economy, delivering the products and services that locals rely on. It is also about creating an opportunity for them to spotlight and talk about what they do because we know that it is difficult for many small businesses to take that moment to market themselves and what they do.

I say to our Pumicestone community: today, get behind your favourite small businesses by nominating them for one of our many awards. Already over 1,800 locals have nominated more than 100 businesses from Bribie to Sandstone Point, from Beachmere and Toorbul to Caboolture and Elimbah. Our awards are on track to be bigger and better than last year with new categories to recognise a broader range of small businesses, including a Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award to celebrate our hardworking young people in business.

With Queensland facing unprecedented skills shortages, our small businesses are relying on our vocational training sector now more than ever. Those training places are what is needed to support the pipeline of infrastructure that makes up our Queensland Big Build. That is why we are providing more QBuild apprenticeships—jobs that the LNP savagely cut the last time that they were in power. We have provided many young Queenslanders with a fee-free place at TAFE and we have made the Diploma of Nursing free. That is why it was so disappointing to hear recent comments from the Leader of the Opposition that TAFE needs to meet the market.

Last time the LNP were in government, they closed 30 TAFE campuses. Local TAFE teachers in my community lost their jobs and young people could not get the education that they needed. Whether it is through our Small Business Awards or by delivering on key infrastructure upgrades in our community, I am focused on listening and delivering for local small business owners because that is what Labor governments do. We listen and we deliver on the training, the services and the infrastructure that locals need. Whether it is the lights that I had put in at Regina Avenue, Ningi, to make sure that people could get in and out of the local shops, planning for the next Bribie bridge, the upgrade of Beachmere Road or the satellite hospital that we are building in the heart of Bribie Island, we know that those services and infrastructure are crucial to the continued success of our local small businesses and we are with them every step of the way. However, all of that is at risk under an LNP government. They want to be the government, but they have already blown a \$9 billion hole in their budget and they will close our local TAFEs to pay for it.

*(Time expired)*