



Speech By  
**Hon. Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Small Business, Cybersecurity**

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.02 am): With an increasingly digital economy, cybersecurity threats represent a critical and formidable danger to our community. Like many Queenslanders, it is our small businesses that can be particularly vulnerable to cybersecurity crime, theft and disruption. They are rightly focused on their operations, their employees and their growth. Their reliance on third-party digital and cloud software, coupled with the perception of being less secure targets, makes them prime targets for cybercriminals seeking easy entry points. We have listened to the community and the industry. We have heard that the average cost per cybercrime to our small businesses is \$46,000. With that figure rising annually, we are taking strong action.

Today I can announce that the Miles Labor government is going to market with our \$5 million planned commitment to prepare and implement cybersecurity support initiatives for Queensland's small and medium-sized enterprises. In the coming weeks my department will engage with sector professionals to take action on providing small and medium enterprises with the help they need to address their cyber safety. Partnering with experts, we can deliver comprehensive and tailored solutions that could include one-on-one access to cyber experts, a concierge service to connect, and delivering staff training, including in cybersecurity.

When I talk about the risk to small businesses I am not only talking about mum and pop shops. This is a \$117 billion sector that employs nearly half of all employees in the private sector. This is a sector that is also feeling the effects of national cost-of-living pressures. In this Small Business Month of May—and I want to acknowledge all of our hardworking Queensland small businesses—the new Miles Labor government is also delivering small business cost relief. I am pleased to announce that applications are open today for the latest round of our Business Growth Fund. Whether you are a butcher, baker, bookkeeper, barista, builder or biotechnician looking at getting involved in our Big Build, I would encourage you to apply for a Business Growth Fund grant. At a time when they need it most, these grants of up to \$75,000 can provide a big boost for our businesses to reach another level. The security and safety of our community and delivering real cost-of-living relief—that is the new Miles government's commitment to all Queenslanders.