



Speech By  
**Hon. Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Small Business**

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.53 am): Just as everyday Queenslanders are, we know that Queensland's small businesses are doing it tough with national cost-of-living pressures. We absolutely acknowledge that changes in discretionary spending hit the cash flow of our small and medium businesses hardest, so more help is on the way. The new Miles Labor government is delivering what matters for Queensland with the biggest cost-of-living relief package in this nation's history. This is real, practical help for small businesses that need it. With ongoing economic challenges such as inflation, a tight labour market and an uncertain global environment, it is understandable that Queensland businesses are continuing to feel these pressures. Our cost-of-living measures are aimed at lowering business operating costs and putting more money into the pockets of Queenslanders to spend at their local small businesses.

It does not stop there. We have extended a vital lifeline for our small businesses so they do not go bust. Free financial counselling and wellness coaching is available through Queensland to continue to help small businesses tackle challenges and find solutions with free, one-on-one targeted support. Queensland's small businesses can also access one-off relief payments of up to \$5,000 to help address immediate needs via the Small Business Support Service fund. Our small businesses are better off with Labor's procurement policies that give them a bigger slice of the government procurement pie. There is no better place in the country to be a small business owner, operator or worker than Queensland.

We can provide record support for our small businesses because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share of royalties—something that is opposed by the LNP and their leader. Their leader described making mining multinational companies pay their fair share as 'a bad plan', 'it was a dishonest plan, it broke the trust of the industry' and then promised the coal lobby 'what we take to the election at the end of the year, you will be able to take to the bank'—a reverse Robin Hood, taking from the people and giving to the rich, handing back billions to multinational mining companies and short-changing our small businesses. Make no mistake: the LNP are the biggest threat to Queensland's small businesses in a generation.