




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Nudge Small Business Awards

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudge—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (8.33 pm): May is Small Business Month in Queensland and I am delighted to be celebrating this year by once again running my Nudge Small Business Awards, which is now in its fourth year. I started these awards for my local community during COVID when many of them were struggling to keep their doors open as a way to encourage our community to shop local, and it was no surprise to me when so many in our community—always so supportive of one another—rose to the occasion and were flooded with thousands of votes in our very first year. It has been my absolute pleasure to continue them each year since, providing the opportunity to shine a light on the thriving small business community and to celebrate their vital contributions, whether it is stimulating the economy, creating local jobs or in so many other wonderful ways—and, of course, being employers of our local people. The growing support for the awards each year is a testament to that strong and connected community.

My favourite part of hosting these awards each year is definitely seeing how excited the winners are to see how much our community loves what they do and the services they provide. Many of these businesses find any way they can to give back to our community, whether it is those who are always ready to help out locals in need of a warm meal or through supporting hardworking and vital community support services across the electorate. Being able to give our community a way to show them some love and thanks through these awards is something I look forward to every year. It is also an opportunity to build and foster new connections and relationships and to gain a better understanding of their needs as a small business and as their local member connect them with a range of support services our state government provides in order to help their businesses grow and thrive. The core of any business, of course, is its people, and this year I have introduced a Best Employee award to shine a light on the workers who help make our small businesses so great.

Just like every year, we have been flooded with votes and stories this year of so many local workers who deserve recognition and appreciation for what they do. I am very much looking forward to awarding this for the first time this year. Voting closes for the awards this Friday. It has been an absolute pleasure, as it is every year, to visit those businesses and business owners and see how much they love hearing that they have even been nominated in their category and, of course, meeting their staff, their wonderful workers, who have been nominated. Sometimes they are taken aback by the comments and stories that people share about them. For them it is a job. They do not think they are special but a smile can make all the difference to someone who might be having a tough day. I look forward to delivering the exciting news to our winners and to celebrating the contribution they make in the Nudge electorate.