




Speech By
Adam Baillie

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Townsville, Small Business

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (11.13 pm): May is Small Business Month. This month across Queensland we are celebrating small and family business, and I rise today to speak about the vital role they play in shaping Townsville. Ninety-seven per cent of all of the businesses across Queensland are small and family businesses, employing more than one million people, making up almost half of Queensland's total employment.

My electorate of Townsville is home to almost 13,000 small businesses, making it among the top regional centres in Queensland for small business activity. From the bustling cafes along The Strand to the innovative startups emerging from our industrial precincts, small businesses form the heart of our community. They provide employment, foster innovation, support our grassroots sports clubs and contribute to the unique character of our city. Running a small business is different from running a large company. I know firsthand that when you run your own business it is your blood, sweat and tears that hold it together.

This month I once again met with many of Townsville's local small business owners, thanks to Townsville Chamber of Commerce's fantastic Chamber Coffee initiative. On my quest to find Queensland's best pie—shout-out Queensland Day; get your nominations in now—I have also had the bonus opportunity to meet many of Townsville's bakery and cafe owners.

A government member interjected.

Mr BAILLIE: They do. The pies do. Every Sunday in the heart of the Townsville CBD, dozens of local small and family businesses attend Cotters Market, which is a great event showcasing the city's creative industries and hospitality providers.

It is because small and family businesses mean so much to so many Queenslanders that this government cares so deeply about supporting them and has set itself on a course to empower them and help them succeed. The Crisafulli government has already delivered on our commitment to refocus the Small Business Commissioner on red-tape reduction and dispute resolution.

After a decade of the former Labor government's red-tape restrictions, Queensland experienced the highest failure rate of businesses anywhere in the country, with 30 per cent failing within the first five years. This government's plan to support small and family businesses will allow them to unleash their full potential.

The Crisafulli government is a government that listens to Queenslanders. On that note, next week community cabinet will convene in Townsville to engage directly with our local community. This event will provide an opportunity for residents and business owners to discuss concerns and collaborate on solutions related to youth crime, health, housing and cost of living.

Before I finish, I want to remind developers, landowners and the local council in Townsville that applications close this Friday for the first round of the Residential Activation Fund. Townsville, I want you to know that I have been working hard, and will continue to work hard, to get our share of funding to unlock land, get more homes built and help fix the housing crisis.