




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Small Business Month

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.15 pm): It is Small Business Month and time to celebrate small businesses. I would like to pay tribute to some of the most enduring and iconic businesses in Rockhampton—enterprises that have not only stood the test of time but also helped shape the very fabric of our community.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge City Printing Works. This is a business that began in 1903 when Andrew 'Lofty' Anderson and his wife, Emma, arrived in Rockhampton. They did not have anything other than a second-hand printer. With that they printed the newspaper, the *Critic*, which became a Friday night favourite. Over four generations the Anderson family has kept that business thriving, contributing to our economy, reinvesting in new technology and serving Rockhampton with pride and professionalism. Their story is one of resilience, innovation and deep community roots.

Next I would like to recognise Large's Furniture & Cabinet Makers. They were established in 1946 by Jim and Isabell Large. It began with the humble production of a wooden clothes peg. Can you believe it? That evolved into Central Queensland's longest standing furniture manufacturer for nearly 80 years. Four generations of the Large family have delivered craftsmanship of the highest quality, contributing to the region's reputation for bespoke cabinetry and design. Their legacy is carved into homes right across our region.

I have saved the best for last and the most heartfelt tribute. Stewarts Rockhampton has been a fixture of our CBD for an incredible 158 years. For the past 33 of those years it has been stewarded by the Woods family—most notably, Mrs Denise Woods. Mrs Woods is more than just a businesswoman. She is a fashion icon, a mentor and a friend to countless women across Central Queensland. From race wear to formal gowns, shoes to perfume, she has helped generations of women feel confident elegant and seen. On 12 May, Mrs Woods announced her retirement, leading into the closure of the ladies' department of Stewarts. It is the end of an era, but also a moment to celebrate a remarkable career. I would like to congratulate the Woods family and wish Mrs Woods all the very best.

Rockhampton is richer for the contributions of these businesses and the people behind them. We do say thank you to our small businesses in Rockhampton.

Whilst I have the floor, I would like to congratulate Michelle Landry and Colin Boyce on being successfully re-elected to our Commonwealth parliament.