




Speech By  
**Hon. Steve Minnikin**  
**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Small and Family Business**

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.26 pm): The Crisafulli government is creating an environment in which small and family businesses are not just surviving but are thriving. It is in the LNP's DNA to back those businesspeople who put their heart and soul into creating something for their families and their communities. We are delivering our Small Business First policy, supporting small and family businesses to succeed by putting in place the right business operating environment. This includes a clear focus on reducing costly red tape, streamlining government services and fostering innovation that will back small and family business owners and back Queensland communities with growth and employment opportunities.

Last month, the Crisafulli government fulfilled a key commitment in our first-100-day plan to refocus the Queensland Small Business Commissioner on red-tape reduction and dispute resolution. Let us face it: red tape has been weighing down businesses across Queensland for far too long. These are the first steps to unleash the true potential of small and family businesses here in Queensland. I say to small and family businesses: we want you to get on with the job of running your businesses free from unnecessary red tape.

Recently I wrote to more than 120 chambers of commerce across Queensland, asking for their feedback and tangible examples of red tape impeding small business from operating efficiently and profitably. As representatives of many Queensland small and family businesses, I am seeking the support of Queensland's chambers of commerce to assist in gathering examples of the red tape that the small business community faces when attempting to comply with the weight of regulation.

Work across the Crisafulli government to reduce red tape is already underway. I congratulate the housing minister. Many Queensland small and family businesses are tradies, and his building regulation renovation initiative is a great step to reduce red tape and unnecessary costs in an industry that is so vital to the state. The Deputy Premier has put Labor's best practice industry conditions on hold, which is another example of stopping red tape flowing through to small and family businesses.

Finally, last week I spent some time in North Queensland to meet with flood-affected small and family businesses. I was pleased to see joint state and federal government grants of up to \$25,000 being made available to flood-affected primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit agencies. I would urge anyone affected to visit our website and apply for those grants.

Just before Christmas, I met some small business owners in Cairns who were only getting back to normal one year after suffering severe flooding from Tropical Cyclone Jasper in late 2023. I want to see us move even quicker this time around in getting those grants in the hands of affected businesses across those eight local government areas. I thank the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the federal agency NEMA for their quick response to making financial support available.

We have delivered on what we said we would by refocusing the Queensland Small Business Commissioner on red-tape reduction and dispute resolution as part of our 100-day plan. We are getting on with the job of tackling red tape and ensuring Queensland is, once again, the best place in Australia for small and family businesses to thrive.