




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin
MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events, Small and Family Business

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.15 am): The impacts of the North Queensland floods, ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred and the current Western Queensland floods continue to have a major impact on Queensland small and family businesses. The task of preparing communities and protecting lives is obviously the first priority, followed by restoring critical infrastructure and returning some normality to those communities. Now is the time to support those small and family businesses that were impacted by rain, flooding and damage caused by wind to get back on their feet and to get Queenslanders back to work.

I am pleased to advise that recovery grants are available for eligible small businesses impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to fund clean-up and immediate recovery needs for the return to operations. Grants have been activated across 16 local government areas from Bundaberg to the Gold Coast and west to Toowoomba. To give an idea of the scale, that area is home to more than three-quarters of Queensland's small and family businesses. Our business concierge teams continue to work with small businesses through the community recovery hubs across affected regions. Those grants are available through business.qld.gov.au.

I recently had the opportunity to return to North Queensland and visit some of the worst affected areas. Most small and family businesses across the flood impacted areas of North Queensland are back open and trading two months after the devastating floods. However, I stress that the work has only just begun. The small business owners I met across Cardwell and Mission Beach continue to need the support of Queenslanders, and we are giving that support in record time. We have doubled the recovery assistance funding from \$25,000 to \$50,000, in conjunction with the federal government. We have received almost 250 grant applications across small business, primary industry and the not-for-profit sector.

The Crisafulli government, in conjunction with the federal government, recently approved another \$26 million for the Small Business and Tourism Recovery Support Package which will include financial assistance for operators who lost income after being cut off. I thank the State Recovery Coordinator, Andrew Cripps, and the Deputy Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Acting Superintendent Paul Algie, for their efforts across the north, in addition to local businesses and local government leaders.

As I said during the last sittings of parliament, the process of delivering financial support for disaster recovery has not changed under the Crisafulli government. We work with the federal government in a respectful, methodical way and we get the outcomes Queenslanders need. We promised no daylight between response and recovery, and it is pleasing to see that a significant amount of work has already been undertaken to get many small and family businesses back on their feet. I would urge all Queenslanders to get out and spend locally. With the support of the Crisafulli government, our Queensland small and family businesses can recover even quicker.