



Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 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) (2.39 pm): The Crisafulli government understands that small and family businesses are the backbone of Queensland communities. We are proud to support them by delivering critical crime prevention measures as part of our small and family business first approach. I was pleased to join a number of members across regional Queensland recently to announce the outcome of round 1 of the Crisafulli government's Secure Communities Partnership Program. This three-year \$40 million program forms part of the Crisafulli government's Small and Family Business First Action Statement that is backed by over \$100 million in new investment to improve the operating environment of small and family businesses and their staff across Queensland. This is another example of how the Crisafulli government is putting small and family businesses first and ending 10 years of Labor's soft-on-crime approach.

The member for Rockhampton and I met at Artizan Gluten Free Bakery, where we spoke with Simone, the owner, and other local small and family businesses about the impacts of crime and antisocial behaviour and the steps we are taking to improve safety in small business precincts. The Rockhampton Regional Council, in partnership with the Crisafulli government, will deliver CCTV and LED security lighting at two high-traffic car parks on Quay Street to improve safety for businesses and their staff. I thank the member for Rockhampton for her strong advocacy for local small and family businesses.

It was great to join the members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Townsville to announce CCTV and energy-efficient lighting upgrades along the Flinders Street business precinct and mobile CCTV monitoring trailers for high-traffic commercial areas such as Aitkenvale, Kirwan and Upper Ross. An hour north, I met with Karen from Jk's Deli and Amber from I Love Boutique in Ingham, where the Crisafulli government, in partnership with the Hinchinbrook Shire Council, will deliver \$400,000 in CCTV and lighting upgrades to support local small and family businesses. These are just two of more than 60 small and family businesses in the Ingham area that will benefit from upgraded security and lighting. I thank the Premier, Mayor Ramon Jayo and our wonderful candidate for Hinchinbrook, Wayde Chiesa, for their announcement this morning; it is welcome.

Continuing north, the member for Mulgrave and I met with Denise, the owner of Caffin8 Cafe, where the feedback for our Secure Communities Partnership Program was just as positive. Businesses and their staff just want to get on with the job of running their businesses and serving their customers in a safe environment while, of course, being profitable. I also joined the member for Cook in Mossman, where we spoke with Sharon, the owner of Beechwoods cafe. Again, safety for owners, staff and customers was a priority.

Seven Far North Queensland councils will deliver \$2.7 million in projects that will directly benefit small business and their staff and include new and upgraded CCTV and lighting systems for communities in Cooktown, Mossman, Port Douglas, Hope Vale, Seisia, Bamaga and Horn Island in the Torres Strait. Projects will also be delivered in Edmonton, Gordonvale, Cairns and Yarrabah. All up, \$9.6 million in funding has been provided for 42 projects across the state—35 in regional Queensland—and will include CCTV, lighting, lockable fencing and improved perimeter security.

Round 2 will be released before the end of the year and allow eligible small businesses to apply directly for funding to implement crime prevention measures. We understand the impact crime has on small and family businesses, their staff and customers. We understand that small and family businesses are indeed the lifeblood of our communities—whether you are in Brisbane or Bamaga; or from Quay Street in Rockhampton to Boundary Street in West End. The interjections received today prove—yet again—that those opposite simply do not understand small and family business.