

**Question on Notice
No. 599
Asked on 20 May 2004**

MR BRISKEY asked the Minister for State Development and Innovation (MR McGRADY) —

QUESTION:

What programs are available to assist small business in the Cleveland Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government through the Department of State Development and Innovation has the responsibility of developing strategies designed to address the rapidly changing needs of business and to strengthen the role of small business as primary generators of employment.

These strategies are:

- improving the level of management skills of business owners and operators to empower businesses to respond quickly and positively to rapidly changing market forces;
- increasing awareness about new and improved technologies, and providing specific programs to encourage the adoption of these technologies;
- encouraging businesses to become globally competitive, providing the necessary export development skills, identifying and assisting access to overseas markets; and
- promoting the concept of entrepreneurship.

The Cleveland electorate is serviced by the Government's State Development and Innovation Centre (SDIC) Southside located at Springwood. SDIC Southside delivers the Government's services and programs in a region that covers the entire Redland Shire Council, the south-eastern portion of the Brisbane City Council and the entire Logan City Council area.

Services and programs include:

- Facilitation of *SmartLicence* applications. *Smartlicence* is the Government's one stop shop for business registration and licensing requirements.
- Dissemination of business information and business self help tools.
- One-on-one business consultations assisting with business start-ups, business planning, investment attraction, adoption of new technologies and domestic and overseas market expansion.
- Workshops, seminars, forums and networking sessions covering small business management skills development, e-Commerce, women in business, industry cluster facilitation, enhancement of manufacturing capability and export development.

For the 2003-2004 financial year to-date, the provision of services and programs through SDIC Southside has included:

- 2,709 *SmartLicence* transactions for businesses in the region of which approximately 300 transactions were from within the Cleveland electorate;
- 1,101 significant one-on-one business consultations undertaken;

- 78 workshops, seminars and forums, focussed on dissemination of industry information, skills development and manufacturing initiatives, delivered to clients, mostly from the small business sector. From this figure it should be noted that seven Leading Edge and seven Smart Marketing workshops have been delivered in the Cleveland electorate attracting 104 attendees; and
- Six export promotions and skills development programs delivered.

In the 2003-2004 financial year the Government introduced the Small Business Accelerator Program and one of the first businesses to receive a grant from the program came from the Cleveland electorate. ARTTable received a grant of \$4,400 (GST incl) for the development of a multi-level marketing structure. The grant will allow the business owner to engage a consultant to undertake a financial diagnostic of the business. The business owner will then complete a growth plan that will enable the business owner to control and manage the growth of the business at a sustainable, profitable level.

In the wider Redland region three businesses have been in receipt of approved Queensland Industry Development Scheme (QIDS) funding for the current financial year of \$87,500. Tripak Industries Pty Ltd applied for and received QIDS funding of \$27,500, Genrich Unit Trust (trading as Gladland Flowers) applied for and received QIDS funding of \$30,000 and Sirromet Wines applied for and received QIDS funding of \$30,000.

The Tripak Industries Pty Ltd Product Development Project is expected to achieve outcomes of \$525,000 in international sales, \$800,000 in interstate sales and 16 new jobs over a three year period.

Genrich Unit Trust Automated Pot Plant Facility project is expected to achieve international sales of \$1M, interstate sales of \$1,4M and five new jobs over three years.

Sirromet Wines Export Market Development Program is expected to achieve international sales of \$1.65M, interstate sales of \$1.03M, intrastate sales of \$5.45M and 17 new jobs.

In August 2003 the Government approved a sponsorship of \$3,727 for the Redland Chamber of Commerce to conduct its annual Business Achievements Awards. This involvement represented the eleventh consecutive year the Government has sponsored the awards.

The Government's New Exporter Development Program provides a comprehensive range of services and products designed to assist businesses undertake export activity for the first time. Currently there are nine companies within the Cleveland electorate participating in the program.

Aluminium Marine is located within the marine precinct in Beveridge Road Thornlands and is a manufacturer of high class aluminium vessels ranging from eight to approximately 34 metres in length. The larger pleasure craft or ferry vessels are continuing to enhance the company's reputation in the world market for leading edge design and manufacturing capability. Aluminium Marine has a current turnover of \$5M per year. SDIC Southside has been assisting Aluminium Marine over the past four years to grow the business and secure access to Erapah Creek and Moreton Bay.

SDIC Southside is working with the Redlands Education Network to promote the Redland Shire as a premium location for quality education. The Redlands Education Network is comprised of educational providers within the Redland Shire as well as potential providers from outside the Shire. The network covers several tiers from primary, secondary and tertiary education at government and private school levels and private education providers. The network is working collaboratively to pursue strategic issues, formulate strategies and implement projects that will benefit the broader education industry in the Redlands area. One of these projects includes the co-hosting of an Education Export Forum with Austrade on 23 June 2004.

SDIC Southside continues to provide support services for the Business Grow program. The Redland Shire Council and Redland Chamber of Commerce are sponsors of the Business Grow program which provides support to existing businesses in the Redland Shire through a visitation program and referrals to appropriate service providers.

For a 12 month period ending 30 April 2004 SDIC Southside has worked extensively with businesses within the Redland Shire to assist in economic development and growth. A small sample of these businesses include, Golden Cockerel Pty Ltd, High Sun Express Plugs, Advanced Robotic Technology, Moreton Bay Systems, Thew and McCann, Fireball Collars, Lumascape's, Aluminium Marine and Complete Wiring Harnesses.

The Government's Business Information Service, the Business Resource Centre and the Retail Shop Leases Registry provide a range of services that assist Redland's businesses with information about State and Federal Government services, facilitates the business planning process and provides advice and assistance to retail tenants and landlords experiencing difficulties with retail leases.

By providing the right economic environment, existing business will prosper and new business and industry will be attracted to the region. The Government, in partnership with the Redland Shire Council and other key stakeholders, will continue to deliver a range of initiatives to positively influence economic development and drive business growth in the specific electorate of Cleveland and the wider Redland area.