

Question on Notice
No. 825
Asked on 17 August 2004

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

QUESTION:

With reference to small and medium enterprises being the back bone of Queensland's economy —

Are there any successful small and medium enterprises in the electorate of Capalaba which have made a significant contribution in this regard?

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 include:

- 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 Capalaba Electorate is serviced by the Queensland Government's State Development and Innovation Centre (SDIC) Southside located at Springwood. SDIC Southside delivers the Queensland 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 Queensland 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; and

- 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 the provision of services and programs through SDIC Southside has included the:

- delivery of 79 workshops and seminars to 2,098 small and medium sized businesses;
- provision of 121 information packages;
- support to 57 businesses to uptake e-technology;
- provision of export assistance to 358 Queensland businesses;
- delivery of 12 export development initiatives;
- delivery of 16 grants totalling \$554,500 to Queensland business and industry;
- delivery of 1,269 significant one-on-one business consultations to assist Queensland business; and
- 1,209 *Smart*Licence transactions for businesses in the wider Redland area of which 157 transactions were from within the Capalaba Electorate.

In the 2003-2004 financial year the Queensland Government introduced the Small Business Accelerator Program and SDIC Southside facilitated successful applications from two businesses from the wider Redland region. 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. Stahmer Engineering Pty Ltd received a grant of \$1,672 (GST incl) to engage a consultant to undertake a business diagnostic which will enable the company to write a growth plan to provide direction to allow the company to expand its business to meet market demand.

From 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, a total of \$87,500 was awarded to firms in the wider Redland region under the Queensland Industry Development Scheme (QIDS). Specifically in the Capalaba Electorate QIDS funding of \$34,650 was awarded to Tripak Industries Pty Ltd. The Tripak Industries Pty Ltd Product Development Project is expected to produce 16 new jobs, international sales of \$525,000 and interstate sales of \$800,000 over three years.

In the wider Redland region two businesses have received QIDS funding grants for the current financial year which total \$66,000 (GST incl) Genrich Unit Trust (trading as Gladland Flowers) applied for and received QIDS funding of \$33,000 (GST incl) and Sirromet Wines applied for and received QIDS funding of \$33,000 (GST incl).

The Genrich Unit Trust Automated Pot Plant Facility project is projected to create five new jobs, international sales of \$1 million and interstate sales of \$1,400,500 over three years.

The Sirromet Wines Export Market Development Program is projected to result in 17 new jobs, international sales of \$1,650,000, interstate sales of \$1,030,000 and intrastate sales of \$5,450,000 over three years.

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. From 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, SDIC Southside facilitated 14 clients through the New Exporter Development Program and assisted 18 clients to become new exporters.

SDIC Southside is working with the Redland Education Network to promote the Redland Shire as a premium location for quality education. The Redland Education Network is comprised of government and private educational providers across primary, secondary and tertiary sectors within the Redland Shire as well as potential providers from outside the Shire. The network is working collaboratively to pursue strategic issues, formulate strategies and implement projects that will benefit the broader education industry in the Redlands.

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. SDIC Southside continues to provide support services for the Business Grow program.

During 2003-2004, SDIC Southside has worked extensively with businesses within the Redland Shire to assist in economic development and growth. A small sample of these businesses includes 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.

SDIC Southside has worked with the Wynnum Manly Regional Development Partnership to deliver the Brisbane Bayside South Business Employment Initiative that will facilitate sustainable business and employment growth in the Brisbane Bayside South region. The SDIC will continue to facilitate the delivery of this Initiative in the 2004-2005 financial year.

The Queensland Government's Business Information Service, the Business Resource Centre and the Retail Shop Leases Registry, provides a range of services that assists Redland 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 business environment, existing business will prosper and new business and industry will be attracted to the region. The Queensland 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 Capalaba and the wider Redland area.