

**Question on Notice
No. 1077
Asked on 9 June 2006**

MR HOOLIHAN asked the Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and Multicultural Affairs (MR CUMMINS) —

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland's economic growth rate which for the tenth year running will beat the national average —

How is State Development assisting small business in Queensland with this incredible growth?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and for his strong support for small business within his electorate. The Beattie Government recognises that small business represents 96.5% of all Queensland businesses and employs around 50% of all private sector workers, and as such, this Government is committed to driving economic growth and innovation, developing business and industry and securing employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government has continued its commitment to economic growth through implementing a variety of business development programs and services. These programs and services target existing and emerging businesses – both small and large – to achieve key objectives such as:

- adoption of enabling technologies and innovations;
- development of new products;
- development of leadership and business management skills;
- planning and implementation of business expansion;
- identification and development of new markets; and
- research, development and implementation of innovative products, services, processes and practices to improve business growth and environmental management.

The Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation provide financial and non-financial assistance to existing businesses to help facilitate employment and productivity growth. Financial assistance is delivered through a suite of successful and effective programs, namely:

- Queensland Industry Development Scheme;
- Small Business Accelerator Program;
- Growing Regional Business Growth Program;
- Innovation Start-up Scheme;
- Women in Business Coaching Scheme;
- Indigenous Business Development Grants Scheme;
- Regional Business Development Scheme;
- Leadership and Management Program;
- State Wide Technology Incubation Strategy;

- International Trade Show Assistance Program;
- BioStart and TeQstart Investment Funds;
- Innovation Building Fund;
- Innovation Skills Fund; and
- Innovation Projects Fund.

Further, the Department's Growing Regional Business initiative has been designed to stimulate investment and re investment into key regions across Queensland. Funding of up to \$1.5 million has been made available to the regions of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, the Wide Bay Burnett, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast.

The Growing Regional Business initiative has enabled the regions to formulate industry specific growth plans. An investment prospectus has been developed for each region that showcases their regional competitive advantage, main industries, infrastructure, lifestyle attributes and major projects, either committed to or under study.

Most importantly, the Queensland Government ensures that small business can access its support services through its network of 19 State Development Centres across Queensland and via the business hotline 13 26 50.

Information about these and many more programs are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation's website www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au.

The Government recognises the valuable contribution that small businesses in Queensland make to the State's economy, and continues to provide support to assist these businesses to grow.