

**Question on Notice
No. 511
Asked on 7 August 2013**

MS BARTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (MRS STUCKEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how Small Business Week has benefitted small businesses in the Broadwater Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Broadwater for the question.

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting all Queensland small businesses including the 4,392 small business owners in Broadwater.

As a demonstration of our commitment, I was pleased to host and take part in, the 2013 Queensland Small Business Week in July. This was the first time this government has hosted a week devoted to small business. The theme for the week was '*helping small business have a big future*'.

The Queensland Small Business Week is an important initiative under the Strategy and Action Plan 2013-15 which was released in May. This whole-of-Government framework provides a planned and coordinated approach to set the economic conditions for business success, and to get small businesses across the state back on track.

During the week, there were more than 90 activities and events held across the state, from the Gold Coast to Cairns, and west to Mt Isa. Six events were held in the Gold Coast Region, easily accessible to businesses in Broadwater. In addition, there were 19 webinars on a variety of topics available to all businesses across the state.

The week offered a wide range of activities and events throughout our regions. These events celebrated small business and provided owners and managers a chance to hear new ideas, connect with other businesses and access information to help grow and become more sustainable, profitable and resilient.

Another key initiative under the Strategy and Action Plan is the "Think Queensland, buy locally" campaign which encourages all Queensland residents and visitors to buy goods and services in their local area. On Saturday 27 July as part of Queensland Small Business week, we supported 'Buy locally Saturday' in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland.

Business and Industry Portal (www.business.qld.gov.au)

Promotional material aimed at educating consumers about the importance of buying locally can be downloaded from the Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au. Businesses from the Broadwater electorate are encouraged to get behind this initiative and help support Queensland's small businesses.

This year's budget allocates \$7 million to continue support for small businesses and deliver business to government services. This investment is enhancing the successful Business and Industry Portal, our one-stop shop for business access to government services.

The portal provides Broadwater's small businesses with access to a wide range of support services. These include information, resources and tools, for example, advice on developing a marketing plan or preparing a credible business plan and checklists and tips for preparing a business for natural disasters or other critical events that interrupt their business continuity.

In addition, information relevant to specific industry sectors is available through the portal. Businesses in the major small business sectors in the Broadwater electorate, such as construction, rental and real estate services, and professional services will benefit from this useful resource.

The Queensland Small Business Week along with all of these actions are directed at supporting a climate in which Queensland small business can have a big future, including small businesses in the Broadwater electorate.