

**Question on Notice
No. 499
Asked on 5 June 2014**

MR HART ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (MRS STUCKEY)-

QUESTION:

How is the Queensland Government assisting small business in the Burleigh Electorate and wider Gold Coast region?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burleigh for the question.

The Queensland Government is committed to small business across the state, including Burleigh and the wider Gold Coast region. Small businesses are vital to Queensland's economy and are the heart of our communities driving employment and economic progress throughout the state.

Almost 96 per cent of businesses in Queensland are small businesses. The Queensland Government introduced the Queensland Small Business Strategy and Action Plan which provides a planned and coordinated approach to set the economic conditions for business success. After one year, all 32 actions under the Plan have been implemented or commenced. Some of the benefits to small businesses, including those in Burleigh include:

- Cutting green tape to more than 9,000 businesses in low-risk environmental activities, reducing administrative costs an average of \$600 per business.
- Increasing the payroll tax exemption to \$1.1 million resulting in 90 per cent of Queensland employers being exempt.
- Reducing workers compensation premiums 17 per cent in 2014-15, the lowest in Australia.
- Launching 'Think Queensland, Buy locally' campaign to support local businesses and stimulate regional economies.
- Leading the implementation of SmartForms to streamline government processes. On the Gold Coast this saw 16 different development application forms collapsed into a single form.

The Queensland Government has also substantially expanded the Business and Industry Portal which is a one-stop-shop for business access to government services. The portal provides small businesses with access to a wide range of support services including information, resources and tools, for example, advice on developing a marketing plan or preparing a credible business plan. The Portal can accessed by visiting www.business.qld.gov.au.

The Queensland Government is also committed to ensuring small businesses on the Gold Coast can benefit from the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games through opportunities to tender for contracts. For example, local industry participation on the Aquatic Centre has been high with more than 90 per cent representation from South East Queensland and 60 per cent of awarded trade packages going to Gold Coast firms.

The Queensland Government has introduced online tendering resources. Over the years small businesses have struggled with the government's tendering system. The new online resources make it easier for small business to develop competitive tenders and maximise their chances of winning Queensland Government contracts. The online resources consist of three parts:

- a series of guides that step businesses through the process;
- a fit to supply diagnostic tool; and
- a specialised search function that enables businesses to query the QTenders database.

Further information on the online tendering resources can be found at:
<http://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/running/winning-new-business>.

Another key initiative of the Queensland Government is the Queensland Small Business Week which celebrates the outstanding contribution small business makes to the Queensland economy. This year, the Week will take place from 1-6 September and gives small business owners and operators the opportunity to hear new ideas, access information and connect with other businesses to help them grow and prosper. I encourage all businesses in Burleigh and on the Gold Coast, to get involved in 2014 Queensland Small Business Week. Further information is available at business.qld.gov.au/smallbusinessweek.

All of these actions are directed at assisting small business and supporting a climate in which Queensland small businesses can operate and grow, including small businesses in the Burleigh and wider Gold Coast region.