

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 820

asked on 16 June 2021

MR B MICKELBERG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON D FARMER) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the total cost of her Small Business Roadshow undertaken in February and March 2021, broken down into the following categories (a) minister and ministerial staff travel and accommodation costs, (b) departmental staff travel and accommodation costs, (c) venue and equipment hire, (d) advertising and (e) any other expenses?

ANSWER:

The Small Business Roadshow included 17 face-to-face sessions with small business owners and local chamber representatives in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Gold Coast, Brisbane South (Sunnybank and Bulimba), Redlands, Cairns, Mt Isa, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane North (Eatons Hill), and Longreach. Additionally, seven online sessions were conducted with stakeholder peak organisations combined with the small business online survey resulted in direct input from over 2500 participants.

The aim of the Roadshow was to hear from small business on such initiatives as:

- the rollout of the Queensland Government's \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business Package including a permanent Office of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner;
- our economic recovery from COVID-19; and
- a new Queensland small business strategy.

The feedback received from the Roadshow was clear and unambiguous and directly informed the development of the \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business Strategy that launched on 12 June 2021. The Strategy aims to lift the competitiveness and resilience of the small business sector and aid in the advancement of Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19.

The Roadshow provided an economic injection into communities and small businesses through the use of services such as accommodation, venue-hire, catering, and audio-visual services. Examples of such businesses are:

- CocoBrew, Rockhampton
- Souths Leagues Club, Mackay
- North Queensland Club, Townsville

- Southport Sharks, Gold Coast
- SunPAC: Sunnybank Performing Arts and Cultural Centre, Brisbane South
- Ikonix - AV for Redlands Roadshow
- Cairns Colonial Club Resort, Cairns
- Buchanan Park Events Complex, Mt Isa
- Bundaberg Multiplex Sport & Convention Centre, Bundaberg
- Mantra, Hervey Bay
- The Events Centre, Caloundra

The total cost of the Small Business Roadshow was \$73,987 as follows:

- (a) Minister and ministerial staff travel and accommodation costs - \$15,619
- (b) Department staff travel and accommodation costs – \$18,356
- (c) Venue and equipment hire - \$21,184
- (d) Advertising – no external costs incurred
- (e) Any other expenses - \$18,828 – expenses for catering, printing of small business information sheets, stationery, hand sanitiser