



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Small Business, Business and Industry Portal

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.23 pm): Queensland's 410,000 small businesses are the backbone of our four-pillar economy, representing some 96 per cent of all registered businesses in Queensland. The Newman government knows that a strong and thriving small business sector is key to growing our economy, creating jobs and revitalising front-line service delivery. We are committed to supporting our small businesses by giving them the tools to prosper and develop in an increasingly competitive market. We recognise that a small business operator's time is scarce and they require access to information that suits their schedule, not someone else's. My department is paving the way for next generation service delivery today through the business and industry portal—our one-stop shop for business interaction with the state government. The BIP, as it is affectionately known, has grown from strength to strength, now offering more than 700 products and services designed to equip our small businesses with the tools and know-how to help them grow. The website content is updated regularly to ensure that we are providing the most up-to-date and relevant information, and the proof is in the pudding. The BIP is delivering for small business with over 1.4 million unique visitors logging on in the financial year to date, an increase of 134 per cent on the same period last financial year. But that is not surprising when one considers that the BIP has saved Queensland businesses a quarter of a billion dollars in time and money over the last two years.

Partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, the government is further boosting assistance to small business via a free 10-part digital learning series called webinars, running from today until late May. Webinars are becoming increasingly popular with small business, with thousands benefiting from our online services during 2012-13. Operators have the opportunity to log in live to these sessions or view the recording of the webinar at a time that is convenient to them and their business. From social media to social engine optimisation, these new practical webinars will provide small business operators with cutting-edge techniques aimed at ensuring they remain competitive in the digital age. I encourage small business operators across Queensland to sign up for upcoming webinars. They can register for any of the sessions and also access essential information and tools on the BIP at www.business.qld.gov.au/events.