



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) (2.51 pm): The Newman government is determined to re-empower Queensland's small business sector and equip it with the tools that it requires to prosper and grow. We recognise that our 410,000 small businesses underpin our four-pillar economy, supporting the vital sectors of tourism, agriculture, resources and construction. As outlined in the government's quarterly report, the Newman government has worked diligently to make it easier to do business in Queensland. One of the key ways in which we are delivering this is through our business and industry portal. The BIP, as it is affectionately known, now provides more than 700 online services. Strong visitation to the BIP for the financial year to 6 May 2014 has recorded 1.8 million unique visitors. That is up 114 per cent on the same period last financial year.

Through my travels across the state and meeting with small business operators, I hear firsthand how the BIP is assisting them. The success of the BIP is backed by the most recent customer impact survey for 2013 which found that BIP had saved over \$250 million in time and money savings over the last two years. BIP has made it easier for small and medium sized businesses to supply their goods and services to the Queensland government through the addition of an online tendering tool. From how to prepare a competitive tender to a fit-to-supply diagnostic tool to help businesses determine their supply capability, these tools are all about helping operators to grow their business. BIP also provides access to a series of innovative webinars. Earlier this afternoon I joined Mr Nick Behrens from CCIQ to participate in the latest webinar in the 10-part digital learning series being provided in partnership with CCIQ. So far eight of these sessions have been held, with more than 2,000 small businesses registering from across Queensland. The Newman government is unashamedly pro small business and we are committed to ensuring that this key sector thrives.