



Speech By
Michael Pucci

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Logan Electorate, Small Businesses

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (3.38 pm): I rise today to speak about how local businesses within Logan are charging ahead with a renewed confidence that was lost in past years. This LNP government's commitment to reduce the red tape that strangled our businesses beyond choking point is paying off. Small business owners are now free from the excessive burden of bureaucracy, thus allowing them to get on with their job and contribute to our local economy. In just over two years, we have implemented over 320 initiatives aimed at reducing red tape. For instance, the waste levy has been removed, saving businesses across Queensland approximately \$7 million a month. We have simplified the approval processes, saving an average of \$20,000 in applicant costs, 150 pages of paperwork and 68 days in processing. Furthermore, changes to regulations now see thousands of small business operators no longer needing to apply for a licence, pay an application fee or submit an annual return.

Small business growth is essential if our local communities are to capitalise on the opportunities that lay before us. A strong local economy provides employment opportunities that unite a community. Small businesses are often the leaders within our communities and are always at the forefront when it comes to local sponsorship and fundraising for charities and community organisations. Without this vital support, community organisations would struggle significantly in keeping pace with the growing demand of an ever-expanding community.

Many non-government organisations—Rotary and Lions Clubs, RSLs and Men's Sheds, just to name a few—are supported by local businesses. An example of this is the charity golf day that Browns Plains Real Estate is running this weekend to support the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. I salute this initiative.

Small businesses are an essential part of the Logan community and we must continue to show our unwavering support by thinking locally. I believe a job provides people with a sense of belonging and a much needed direction. Unlike those in the Labor Party, who are always looking to increase taxes or put more regulations on small business, I understand it is businesses, not governments, that create jobs. I will never underestimate the value of small businesses and the role they play in providing jobs and shaping our community. I salute all the small businesses in Logan that are contributing to our growing economy—small businesses of all kinds from Mega Meats and J&P Barbers in Browns Plains, and Regents Park Pharmacy, Longboard Pizza and Browns Plains Real Estate in Regents Park all the way to the Strawberry Farm in Chambers Flat, the Logan Village Hardware and Yarra House Restaurant in Logan Village to the Greenbank Newsagency and the Bloomin' Vet in Greenbank. Our community is filled with over 3,500 small businesses that help keep Logan charging.

I recently met with Mr Tony Langridge, a successful local and small business owner of Bullant Bobcat Hire. With Logan charging ahead of other regions with home loan applications up by 23 per cent in the year to August, Mr Langridge spoke of how confidence and discretionary spending is returning to the market, creating opportunities for small proprietors to work locally and support the growing Logan economy. We still have work to do, but a brighter future is there for the taking if we work together to keep Logan charging.