



Small Business Round-up



February 2025



For many of our small and family business friends in North Queensland, it hasn't been the start to the year that they were looking for. It has been a difficult month, surviving a natural disaster. We have had several team members on the ground and our thoughts are with all of North Queensland at this time. If you are a small and family business in a **Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) activation area**, make sure you look at the **disaster recovery for business** grants and loans being coordinated by **QRIDA**.

As many of you would be aware, our office was part of The First 100 Days election

commitments, and we have been refocused on red tape reduction and dispute management for small business. This month we have met many small and family business owners and industry bodies, such as Coffee Commune, Queensland Social Enterprise Council, the National Retail Association, Master Builders and the Family Business Association, to hear your views about red tape reduction opportunities. These examples have been quite broad ranging from the Fair Work Act, Biofuels, Dangerous Goods, the Australian Taxation Office, Payroll Tax, Stamp Duty and much more.

In February we have jumped back on the road, visiting businesses in Windorah, Birdsville, Longreach, Scenic Rim, the Gold Coast and Ipswich. Small and family businesses continue to discuss their experiences with skills shortages, energy costs and accessibility, access to capital, the regulatory burden and other impacts on productivity. From a red tape perspective, small and family businesses want action on things like government procurement, workers compensation, vehicle registrations, and mutual recognition of licences.

This month we launched our Reducing Red Tape web page to allow you to tell us about your experiences with red tape, its impact and any practical solutions you might have. We have been tasked by the Minister to collate your examples and to provide this information to him directly. If you are a small and family business and have any red tape examples you would like to share, please submit your examples via our **Red Tape Examples form**.

We have also been back in the studio recording new episodes of Small Business Big Stories. We are incredibly proud of all our brave small and family business owners across Queensland, and we are honoured that some of you have taken the time to talk to us about your journeys. We hope these provide you with some insights and perspective when it comes to your own journeys. **Our latest episode is available now!**

Upcoming activities

- **4 - 5 March** - Hinchinbrook Regional Visit
- **6 March** - Coffee Commune IWD Lunch
- **7 March** - BSCAA Women in Leadership Event
- **11 March** - 2025 World Plumbing Day Event
- **12 March** - HairHouse Queensland Franchisees Event
- **14 March** - aFile Breakfast Event



Dominique Lamb

Queensland Small Business Commissioner

Crystals to Customers



Ever wondered what it takes to turn a small family business into a must-visit destination?

In episode 8 of Small Business Big Stories, Ghis Gallo, manager of The Crystal Caves in Atherton, shares her journey with the Commissioner. From embracing what makes your business unique to creating unforgettable customer experiences, Ghis offers practical tips for small business owners, including:

- Navigating retail and tourism challenges.
- Leveraging support from the tourism industry.
- Adapting and evolving your business.

Tune in and be inspired—listen on **Spotify**, **Apple** or visit our **website**.

Share Your Examples



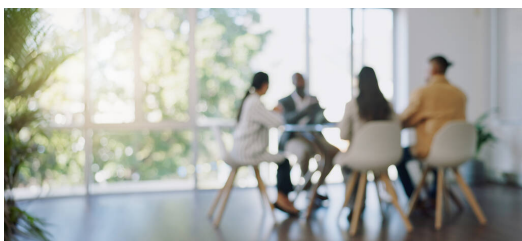
The Queensland Small Business Commissioner (QSBC) is focussed on supporting the Queensland Government to reduce red tape that unnecessarily restricts small and family businesses.

While we can all appreciate the benefits that some red tape can provide, sometimes it has unintended consequences. Reducing red tape can improve productivity and ultimately boost our economy. Working to improve our regulatory environment is good for everyone.

To help identify red tape reduction opportunities, we need Queensland small and family businesses to tell us about your red tape examples and practical solutions. We will collate and share these with government. It will only take a few minutes!

Tell us about your Red Tape Examples

Strengthen Your Negotiations



Legal disputes can be stressful, costly, and often have a major impact on small and family businesses that lack the funds to get legal help. With a little planning and knowledge about your rights, you can save time and money.

Knowing where you stand also allows you to negotiate more confidently in less formal discussions and even during mediation. Don't let legal costs stop you—equip yourself with the information you need, and you'll be better positioned to handle disputes.

Read our full article here: **[Seeking Legal Advice: Your Compass in Dispute Resolution – Queensland Small Business Commissioner.](#)**

Disaster Assistance And Recovery

Small businesses impacted by recent Queensland weather events can access financial assistance through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Grants and loans are available for businesses affected by the North and Far North Queensland Tropical Low, while those impacted by the Southern Summer Rainfall and Flooding in Burnett and Wide Bay may be eligible for concessional loans.

Find out more.



Activate Your Vacant Property

Are you the owner or agent of a vacant commercial property in the local government areas of Banana, Barcaldine, Cassowary Coast, Charters Towers, Douglas, Hinchinbrook, Isaac, Livingstone, Mount Isa, or Winton?

The QSBC's Regional Place Activation Program (RPAP) could be for you! The program is a partnership with **Renew Australia** to fill vacant properties with new or existing local small businesses which can help you attract new tenants.

To activate your vacant space—**Find out more**



Help Shape Support

The **independent review** of the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO) wants to hear from small and family businesses across Australia about how it can improve the support provided at a national level.

Take a quick 5-minute survey to help assess ASBFEO's impact and identify improvements. The survey includes eight optional questions about your experience. Your input will help shape better national support for small and family businesses.

Have your say by 31 March 2025



Opportunities for you



Unlock essential digital skills with the **Digital Solutions program**—expert coaching, tools, and training to save time, cut costs, and enhance customer experience.

Sign up now!



Remote Job Funding. Looking to create jobs and boost your remote community? The second round of grants for the **RJED program** is now open—discover how you can secure funding for wages, equipment and more.

Apply Now!



Innovate. Develop. Grow. Got an innovative idea but need help developing it? Queensland SMEs can access free R&D training through **Innovate to Grow: Queensland**, an expert-led program helping businesses turn ideas into research projects and explore funding opportunities.

Apply Now.

Stay connected via our social channels



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one conversation at a time*



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