



Small Business Round-up



May 2025

Queensland Small Business Month

RECHARGE. RENEW. REBUILD.

Small Business Month has been about supporting small and family businesses across Queensland to renew, recharge and rebuild. We were so pleased to be a part of so many events across the state that focused on supporting small businesses. This month we visited businesses in far North Queensland including in Townsville, Mareeba, Atherton, Innisfail, Mission Beach and Port Douglas, who are still recovering from a number of weather events that occurred earlier in the year. We also visited Gympie, Moreton Bay, Sommerset, Bribie Island, Rockhampton and Yeppoon. Businesses in each of these locations told us about their personal experiences with red tape and their concerns about insurance, energy costs, freight, access to capital, crime and labour

shortages. We appreciate the opportunity to speak with so many business owners in order to test the information from our assistance line and other sources.

This month we have seen some exceptional announcements from the state government in relation to small and family business which will help alleviate some of the pressures you told us about. If you haven't had the opportunity yet, check out the **Queensland Governments Small Business First, Action Statement**. This initiative commits an additional \$100 million dollars to small and family business across all industries and areas of Queensland.

To further assist small and family businesses in locations across the state, our office has refreshed our Small Business Friendly Program in partnership with 51 of the 77 councils across Queensland. The councils involved represent approximately 97 % of small and family business across our state and continues into its fifth year of operation.

This month we held our annual conference for our member councils and their local chamber representatives. It was wonderful to see so many of our committed members at both the workshop and our conference. We are also pleased to announce that the winners of our annual Small Business Friendly awards show casing some of the initiatives to come out of this program:



Initiative of the Year - Livingstone Shire Council

Council's "Agritourism Program" was the standout helping small farms branch out into tourism, building supply chains, launching new ventures, and strengthening rural innovation. It's a great blueprint for turning challenges into growth opportunities.



Regional Member of the Year - Balonne Shire Council

Council consistently exceeds its SBF Commitment with award-winning initiatives, strong procurement strategies, great monitoring and analysis of data, and meaningful partnerships that support small business resilience and growth.



Member of the Year - Rockhampton Regional Council

Council, through 'Advance Rockhampton', empowers more than 5,400 small businesses with tailored grants, a strong procurement strategy, and vibrant precinct development—embedding small business success into the region's DNA.

We couldn't be more proud of the members of our program who year on year push themselves to meet their commitment to continuously enhance the operating environment for small and family businesses in their areas. Well done to all of the finalists and congratulations to our winners!

In order to assist Queensland small and family business with their concerns relating to crime, the Queensland Government has also announced a commitment of \$40 million dollars to the Secure Communities Partnership Program to deter crime against small and family businesses. This funding will be used to support councils to install critical safety upgrades including CCTV, alarm systems, security lighting and fencing to make local small and family businesses safer. For more information check out **Business**

Queensland.

Thank you very much to all of the small and family businesses that have given us their time this month. We are so grateful to hear your stories and to connect you to the supports and services that allow you to renew, recharge and rebuild. Happy Small Business Month!

Upcoming activities

- **11 June** - Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce Business Networking Event
- **16 June**- Combined Junior Senior Breakfast – Young Business Leaders Event
- **19 June** - M4G Mentor Networking Event
- **25 June** - Local Link Networking Event



Dominique Lamb

Queensland Small Business Commissioner

Business in the Bush



Join Dominique Lamb and Julia Spicer OAM—trailblazing entrepreneur and former Queensland Chief Entrepreneur—as they unpack what it takes to build strong, sustainable businesses in rural Australia. From practical insights on resilience to the power of local networks, Julia shares lessons learned from the ground up. Plus, discover *The Connection Table*, her game-changing initiative driving diverse regional leadership. Don't miss this episode!

Tune in on **Spotify**, **Apple**, or visit our **website**.

Protect your Lease Rights



If you're dealing with a time-sensitive lease issue, interim/injunction orders from QCAT may help protect your business. These temporary orders can stop certain actions—like being locked out after a breach notice—until a final decision is made. But they aren't used to delay the process, especially for issues like unpaid rent, unless there's a genuine dispute.

Getting legal advice early is essential. An invalid breach notice could expose a landlord to damages, while tenants need accurate applications to avoid delays.

Need help understanding your rights? Check out our full blog post on the QSBC website.

[Understanding Interim/Injunction Orders in Lease Disputes.](#)

Get Ahead of Change

Big workplace changes are coming—are you ready? From August, the new *Right to Disconnect* law gives employees the right to refuse after-hours contact, the super guarantee is increasing to 12% in July, and the federal instant asset write-off (\$20,000) ends June 2025, reverting to \$1,000.

The good news? Queensland's apprenticeship and traineeship subsidies can help ease the pressure and grow your team sustainably. Acting now means you can stay compliant, manage costs, and attract the right talent. Find out more about:

- **[Right to disconnect](#)**
- **[Super guarantee](#)**



- Instant asset write-off
- Apprenticeships and traineeships

Avoid Costly Mistakes



ASIC is reminding small business directors to use company money and assets in the best interests of their company. Misusing funds can lead to serious consequences including investigations, fines, disqualification, or court action.

To get it right, understand your obligations, pay debts on time, and seek advice if you're unsure. Poor financial control is a leading cause of business failure—don't risk it!

Get tools and guidance

Backing Small Business



The Queensland Government Small and Family Business First Action Statement includes over \$100 million to support Queensland businesses.

It focuses on improving the business environment and providing practical support and assistance to help small and family businesses succeed, grow, and reach their full potential.

Learn more today.

Power-Up Your Business

The new Queensland Business Concierge is your one-stop shop for government support. Get fast, personalised help with everything from payroll to permits.

Local representatives across Queensland are ready to connect your small or family business with the right programs to start, grow and thrive.

Find out more



Your Voice Matters

Small business owners and future founders, we hear you loud and clear! We're reporting to Government on the barriers holding businesses back—but we need more of you to speak up.

Tell us how red tape is affecting you and share practical ideas to fix it. It's quick, easy, and can help shape a better business environment.



Have your say now

Opportunities for you



Get EOFY Ready

This EOFY, the ATO is targeting common errors like work-related expenses, WFH deductions, and multiple incomes. From 1 July, tax debt interest (GIC) won't be deductible. Get it right with the:

Tax Time toolkit for small business and **ATO App**



Industry Growth Program

The Industry Growth Program supports innovative SMEs undertaking commercialisation and/or growth projects.

Learn more and apply.



Small Business Toolkit

The ACCC has launched a new web page and free small business toolkit to help you stay compliant with legislation and Australian Consumer Law.

Check it out

Stay connected via our social channels



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one conversation at a time*



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