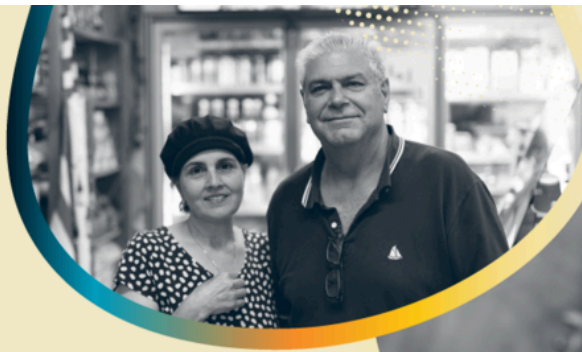




Small Business Round-up



October 2024



This month, we've had the pleasure of making new friends to get better outcomes for small businesses across Queensland!

First, we met Charles Burke, the Queensland Food Farmers Commissioner. Charles leads an independent role, born out of the supermarket prices inquiry, to convince supermarkets to treat farmers fairly. With agriculture being one of Queensland's top industries, particularly in our rural, regional, and remote communities, his work is vital. As agribusiness continues to evolve, it's crucial that the supply chain from farms to consumers stays efficient and

strong.

We've also had the chance to sit down with John "JC" Collins, the newly appointed Night Life Economy Commissioner. Like the Food Farmers Commissioner, JC's role is independent of government, and he'll be working closely with live music venues, night clubs, bars, restaurants, festival organisers, arts outlets, local pubs, and entertainment precincts to boost the night economy across the state. This is great news for small businesses in these industries, and we're already discussing key issues they face. We're looking forward to collaborating with both commissioners in the coming months.

In addition to these collaborations, we're increasing our efforts to ensure the voices of small business owners from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are part of our ongoing advocacy. Queensland is home to over 160 culturally diverse communities, and in 2001 it was identified that 22.3% of Queenslanders were born overseas and nearly 7% speak a language other than English at home. This month, we've connected with business leaders from the Vietnamese, Filipino, Indian, and Sri Lankan communities as we work toward establishing a small business multicultural roundtable. If you're a small business owner from a culturally diverse background, we'd love to hear from you—your voice matters, and we want to ensure it's part of the conversation. Feel free to **reach out to us**.

Our travels also took us to Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Yeppoon, and the Sunshine Coast meeting with member councils of our Small Business Friendly (SBF) Program and business chambers. Each year the member councils give us their Annual Report about their SBF initiatives and successes. It was great to be with Rockhampton Regional Council as their report was presented. With a renewed focus on small business, they've developed a local government procurement training program, created a business networking calendar, launched new grants for façade improvements and incentives to convert main street commercial property into accommodation—helping businesses house staff and boost the local economy.

I continue to be inspired by the commitment of our SBF Program members and how they keep coming up with new ways to support their small business community. Their efforts are making a tangible difference, and it's wonderful to see the impact they're having on the lives of Queensland business owners.

Of course, we understand the challenges small businesses face—especially around accessing capital. We've heard from many small business owners how difficult this can be, and this is often due to 80% of business finance being tied to a home loan, bank closures in regional, rural, and remote areas, and poor understanding of other business investment opportunities. However, there's hope. This week, I had the pleasure of participating in a consultation with Wayne Gerard, a former Queensland Chief Entrepreneur, who is advocating for better capital pathways. There's a growing interest from investors to better understand the needs of small businesses and provide education around venture capital and equity raising, which is promising for the future.

Lastly, a shout-out to our Assistance team and mediators. They're working incredibly hard on the front line, helping small business owners every day. Their work has contributed to a 65% decrease in landlord-tenant disputes for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, as indicated in their Annual Report. This is a huge achievement, and I couldn't be prouder of the team's efforts.

As we continue to push forward through these challenging times, remember there are opportunities and support available for small business, and one conversation can be all it takes to make the difference.

We're here for you! **1300 312 344**


Upcoming activities

- **11 - 14 November** – Blackall-Tambo SBF Charter Signing
- **14 - 15 November** – Destination Q & Destination IQ
- **20 November** – Somerset Chamber Business Event
- **25 November** – Global Empowering Women Organisation (GEWO) Symposium




<https://www.linkedin.com/company/queensland-small-business-commissioner/>
Queensland Small Business Commissioner

Regional Place Activation Program Update





REGIONAL PLACE ACTIVATION PROGRAM



WELCOME TO:

- BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL
- BARCOLDINE REGIONAL COUNCIL
- CHARTERS TOWERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
- DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL
- ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL
- WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL



In our August 2024 newsletter we announced we had received numerous expressions of interest (EOI) from eligible Small Business Friendly (SBF) Program members for the 10 fully funded places in QSBBC's Regional Place Activation Program with Renew Australia, and the four councils selected for Cohort 1.

We're now pleased to announce the following six councils have been selected for Cohort 2. Congratulations!

- Banana Shire Council
- Barcaldine Regional Council
- Charters Towers Regional Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Isaac Regional Council
- Winton Shire Council

If your small business is in one of the activation areas, **keep an eye out** to learn how to get involved when the EOI for creative Queensland small business participants opens in early December 2024.

A Farm's Journey to Agritourism Success



In **episode 4** of 'small business Big Stories,' join the Commissioner who talks with Kay Tommerup, farmer, foodie, and mum from Tommerup's Dairy farm on the Scenic Rim, to explore how a traditional dairy operation transformed into a thriving agritourism destination.

Kay shares the remarkable journey of her family's 150-year-old farm and candidly discusses the challenges of adapting to market changes while staying true to your values in business.

Subscribe now on **Spotify** or **Apple** or visit our **website** to listen

Weather Doesn't Plan - But You Can



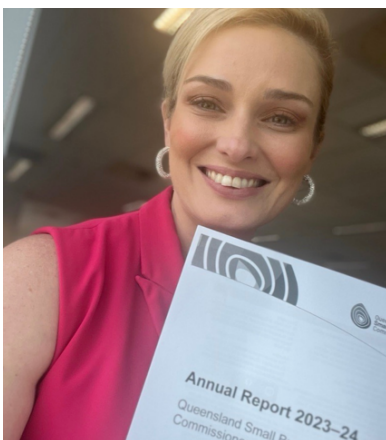
It's time to prepare with Get Ready Queensland! As severe weather season approaches, ensure your home, pets, and business are protected. Visit your local council's website for essential resources and create a solid plan to safeguard your property and livestock.

Don't wait until it's too late! Familiarise yourself with local evacuation and recovery centres and remember, support is available including personal hardship assistance, housing aid, and community recovery hotlines.

Act now to protect what matters most!

Access support

QSBC Annual Report Tabled



We're pleased to share that our QSBC Annual Report for FY 2023-24 has been tabled in Parliament and it's been a year full of milestones and opportunities!

As a small, dedicated team of 15 people we're proud to support Queensland small businesses, collaborate with industry, and advocate to government for better outcomes.

Curious about what we've been doing?

Read the report

How to Manage a Lease Breach of Notice

Receiving a lease breach notice can feel overwhelming, but it's not the end of the road — it's a prompt to address an issue before it escalates! Common triggers include late payments, unauthorised use, or property maintenance issues. If unresolved, landlords may issue a final warning, terminate the lease, or even lock you out.

Need help? Start by discussing options with your landlord, seeking professional advice from a commercial tenant advocate, or applying for mediation through QSBC. We've helped many tenants and lessors reach practical solutions through our mediation service.

Visit our website for more [information and support](#).



Boost Your Business With Digital

We hear from many small business owners worrying about changing market conditions and how to get ahead. Embracing digital marketing tools can help you adapt and boost your business.

Consider the success story of Trish, a Personal Travel Manager who transformed her advertising struggles using the Australian Government Digital Solutions program. After facing difficulties in building her online presence, Trish created a Digital Action Plan to enhance her visibility. With newfound marketing skills and confidence, Trish revamped her website and social media strategy reaching her targeted customer base, improving her financial management, and making a significant impact in her industry.



Find out more about the program

Property Law Act 2023 Proclaimed

The *Property Law Act 2023* will take effect on 1 August 2025, marking Queensland's first major property law reform in nearly 50 years. It's vital for lessors and lessees to understand the changes ahead and our QSBC Assistance team is here to help you stay informed.

Contact us



Opportunities for you

Round 7 Rural Economic Development Grant

Apply for co-contribution grants up to \$200,000 by November 22, 2024, from Queensland Rural and Industry development Authority to grow your rural venture.

Submit Your EOI

Disclosure of Business Tax and Super Debts

If you're struggling to keep on top of your business tax and super obligations or need to disclose business tax debts, don't wait! Talk to your registered tax professional, get help from a FREE **financial counsellor**, or reach out to the ATO early for help.

Find out more

Get up to \$5,000 for HR Support

Eligible small businesses can receive grants to tackle immediate HR challenges. Don't miss out—find out how you can strengthen your workforce.

Check eligibility and apply.

Free Workforce Resources

Jobs Queensland are supporting councils in our Small Business Friendly Program to help small businesses in their regions grow their workforce.

Find out more

Stay connected via our social channels



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*making a difference,
one conversation at a time*

