



April 2025

Supporting small and family business

We improve customer service, support small and family business owners, and provide better government services.

Funding and programs

Disaster recovery updates

Small businesses, non-profit organisations and primary producers affected by recent disasters can now access a range of grants and support. Visit [Business Queensland](#) for the latest information on available assistance, including:



- **Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred:** Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants of up to \$25,000 for eligible businesses in 16 South East Queensland local government areas.
- **Western Queensland rainfall and flooding:** Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants of up to \$25,000 for small businesses or non-profit organisations and up to \$75,000 for primary producers, along with Disaster Assistance Loans and Essential Working Capital Loans for eligible operations in nine local government areas.
- **North and Far North Queensland rainfall and flooding:** A [\\$269 million package](#) is available to support infrastructure, business, mental health and primary producers as the region emerges from the floods stronger than before.

These programs have been jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Disaster recovery support

Free [financial counselling and business wellness coaching](#) is available for those who have been impacted by natural disasters. These services aim to help small business and agribusiness re-establish operations, maintain employment and build resilience.

Read more about how [Rural Financial Counselling Service Southern Queensland](#) is supporting primary producers impacted by the devastating Western Queensland floods.



Queensland Small Business Month

Queensland Small Business Month is coming up in May! There is a busy program of events to support small and family businesses across the state to recharge, renew and rebuild.

Register an event or find out what workshops, webinars and networking opportunities are happening near you at business.qld.gov.au/gsbm.

Boosting small business

What do a North Queensland fireworks operator, a Brisbane watchmaker and an outback tourism business have in common? They are some of the more than 165 Queensland small businesses benefiting from the latest round of [Business Boost](#) grants.

Tech boost for tourism

Ready to boost your tourism business with technology? The Tourism Business Digital Adaption Program offers online resources, free trials, a champions network and \$2,500 rebates to help improve your businesses digital capabilities. [Apply today](#).



Businesses in Action

Business Boost grants fuel Queensland's small business success

The latest round of Business Boost grants are having real impact on Queensland small and family businesses. Hear from the owners of White Whale Coffee Roasters and Mainstay Underwriting.

[Read more](#)



Keeping you up to date



Planning for procurement webinar

Gain expert insights and practical strategies from Industry Workforce Advisors in this informative recorded webinar. You'll discover how strategic workforce planning can overcome workforce challenges, align with business goals, and position you for procurement success. [Watch here](#).

The big picture for small business

Small business benchmarks

Compare how your business performance tracks against others in your sector using the [Australian Taxation Office's small business benchmarks](#). If you are outside your industry benchmark it can highlight areas you should look at to improve your operation. It's also the tool the ATO uses to identify businesses that may be avoiding tax obligations. [Find out how your business compares](#).

Delivering 2032

The [2032 Delivery Plan](#) has been released and sets out a range of projects to be completed across South East Queensland and regional Queensland for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The plan covers infrastructure for major venues, grass roots sporting clubs along with transport and tourism.

Tools, tips and triumphs

Live music grants

Live music venues up to 500-person capacity can apply for two grants from Arts Queensland that aim to strengthen business models and support Queensland artists. Venues can offset performance costs through the [Growing Gigs Fund](#) or strengthen their business models with improvements or trialling alternative revenue streams through the [Live Music Venue Business Grants](#). Applications for these grants close on 6 May 2025.

Small business masterclasses

The Australian Taxation Office is offering free [masterclass sessions](#) from 30 April to enhance your small business knowledge. Can't join live? Explore ATO's [essentials to strengthen your small business](#) hub.

First Nations procurement

The First Nation's Stronger Business Connect workshop was recently held on the Sunshine Coast. Buyers and stakeholders from industry groups and local, state and Federal government agencies were on hand, building connections and identifying ways to tender

for and win more government procurement opportunities to support and grow local small businesses. Check out the [support for Indigenous businesses page](#) for more programs.



For more information:
Visit business.qld.gov.au



Rural financial counselling service

Local flood recovery support for Western Queensland primary producers

Rural Financial Counsellor Angie Bowden and her team from [Rural Financial Counselling Service \(RFCS\) Southern Queensland](https://rfcssq.org.au/rural/#SWQ) are available to help primary producers impacted by the devastating Western Queensland floods.



As proud Western Queensland locals, Angie and her team understand the unique challenges of farming in the region and have extensive experience in disaster assistance. They can help simplify the recovery process by:

- identifying available disaster financial assistance and letting you know if any new support becomes available
- supporting you to complete applications
- connecting you with other services and support.



If you need support, don't hesitate to reach out. Angie and her team can guide you through every step of the recovery process, offering practical and structured support, both now and for the long-term.

Visit <https://rfcssq.org.au/rural/#SWQ> to get in contact with Angie and her team today.

This is one part of the [Small Business Support Network](#), which includes small business and rural financial counsellors and wellness coaches. These services can support owners directly or indirectly impacted by natural disasters or those tackling other personal business challenges.

Businesses in action

Helping White Whale chase its next goal and upgrading an underwriting business

With more than 165 recipients receiving a Business Boost grant, a range of Queensland small business owners are diving in to work on their business.

The Business Boost grants support planning, software upgrades or professional development opportunities.

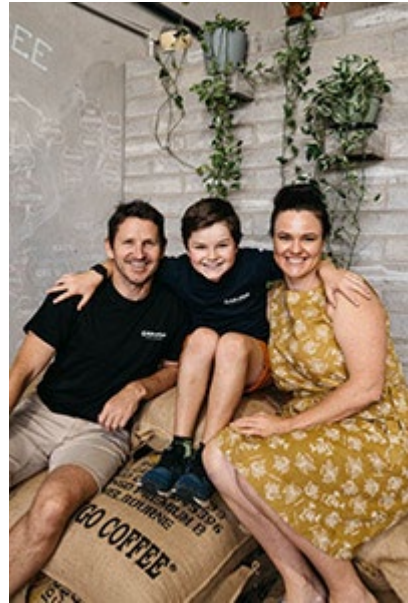
White Whale Coffee Roasters have built up 15 years' experience in the Cairns café scene. They are also known widely for making a positive impact in their community and the environment.

Owners Ali Slotemaker and Stephen Lee are proud of what they have built, and want to grow past the 'mum and dad' business model to help their business and team thrive.

“Creating a strategic plan will provide the clarity and focus our business needs. It will give our team a shared vision and a clear roadmap for growth—one that supports not only our business goals, but also the development of our people and the deepening of our positive impact,” she said.

That positive impact covers supporting the Reef Restoration Foundation, reducing their environmental impact through the ecoBiz program and using renewable energy sources but Ali wants White Whale to chase B Corp (Benefit Corporation) certification.

“While we already do our best to reduce our environmental footprint and create a positive impact, from supporting coffee producers in places like Timor Leste to running wellness workshops for our team, we’ve never measured ourselves against a formal standard,” she said.



“I’m genuinely curious to see how we stack up, and even more excited to uncover the areas where we can do more. For me, the journey toward B Corp is what matters most. Certification, if we achieve it, will just be the icing on the cake.”

Mainstay Underwriting, based in Bundall on the Gold Coast, is another recipient. They work with select commercial industries as a Lloyds Coverholder, to underwrite risks and provide better policies and premiums, at a time when the cost of insurance has been getting more attention.



Managing Director Adam Dalton said the business will be setting up a customer relationship management (CRM) program with their grant.

“We’ve never had a CRM and to date we’ve been managing this through a document management system platform’s task system,” he said.

“A CRM will improve our communications, speed up our processes and understand where our work is at any point, including any bottlenecks that need attention.”

Good luck to all of the Business Boost recipients chasing their next goals. It is an exciting and inspiring group!

Keep an eye out for news on small business grants in Business Queensland Connect or check for updates to the BQ website’s [small business grants schedule page](#).

For more information:
Visit business.qld.gov.au

