



The 2018-19 Queensland Budget provides vital funding to help small businesses to start, grow and employ. A strong small business sector means a growing economy, delivering more jobs for Queensland, stronger communities and regional growth.

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered a wide range of targeted programs to drive small business growth and job creation.

With more than 153,000 new jobs created since January 2015, it is clear that our economic plan and its partnership with business and industry, is working.

Advance Queensland

\$650M

To build a stronger Queensland economy and creating the knowledge-based jobs of the future.

**Advancing Small Business
Queensland Strategy 2016-20**

\$22.7M

To advocate, enable and empower small business owners to succeed, including through the delivery of priority grants and programs to support small businesses start, grow and employ.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

\$420M

To provide skills development, nationally recognised training and job opportunities over six years to up to 54,000 Queenslanders.

Back to Work extended to 30 June 2020

\$369M

To give Queensland employers the confidence to take on eligible unemployed jobseekers, including \$20.5 million to continue the program to provide targeted support in areas of South East Queensland with significant labour market challenges and \$155 million to provide support across regional Queensland.

The 2018-19 State Budget continues to focus on making Queensland the place for small business.

The Government is delivering support to grow small businesses, assist employers to employ apprentices, encourage innovative business ideas, and reduce the cost of doing business.

Business Development Fund

\$40M

In additional funding to help turn ideas and innovations into a commercial reality, while facilitating development of a sustainable private market for venture capital finance in Queensland.

Payroll tax – Apprentice and Trainee rebate

\$26M

For the extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees to 30 June 2019. Queensland has a competitive tax regime to keep the cost to small business low.

ecoBiz Program

\$3.94M

An additional investment in the ecoBiz program, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, to support small and medium businesses to become more eco-efficient and reduce the cost of utility bills.

Delivering for

SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses are key drivers of the Queensland economy

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the significant contribution that small businesses make to our economy. They are the backbone of our communities, and are represented in every industry across Queensland.

Queensland's more than 426,000 small businesses are punching well above their weight. They account for 97.5 per cent of all Queensland businesses, employ around 44 per cent of our state's private sector workforce, and contribute around \$113 billion to Queensland's economy.

Helping small businesses start, grow and employ

The Palaszczuk Government is continuing to implement a range of small business support programs under the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-20, with \$22.7 million being invested over three years to enable small business to meet the challenges of a changing economy.

Since 2016, more than 1,500 businesses have received \$7.4 million in grant funding. In 2018, the Accelerate Small Business program has been expanded and renamed the Business Growth Fund. The fund will provide targeted assistance for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to help achieve their high-growth and employment aspirations.

The Government is continuing to deliver the annual Queensland Small Business Week, one of the most important events on the Queensland business calendar. With 160 events and over 6,000 registered attendees at the 2018 Queensland Small Business Week held from 28 May to 1 June, the highly successful event provides networking opportunities for small businesses to grow.

The Mentoring for Growth program continues to offer eligible businesses access to business experts who offer insights, options and suggestions for small business owners.

The Queensland Small Business Champion has attended over 220 engagement activities since January 2017, receiving advice about important matters to small business. The Champion is ensuring that small businesses are at the forefront of government policy and decision-making.

Reducing the cost of doing business

Queensland has a competitive tax regime to keep the cost to small business low.

The Palaszczuk Government announced the \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan in 2017 to make electricity more affordable for residential and business customers.

The Government has invested \$10 million in the Regional Business Support Package to assist regional businesses to understand and minimise their electricity costs and make informed choices about future tariff options.

The Government has also recently completed the delivery of the \$2.69 million Energy Savers Plus Program in partnership with Energy Queensland and the Queensland Farmers Federation. The program has raised awareness of on-farm energy management, with around 100 energy audits completed to allow energy consumption to be reduced by 20-40 per cent in many instances.

In 2018-19, Palaszczuk Government is continuing to fund these initiatives under the Business Energy Savers Program with \$20 million in additional funding.

To support SMEs to reduce the cost of utility bills, we are investing an additional \$3.94 million in the ecoBiz Program – bringing the Government's total investment in the program to \$5.9 million since 2015. ecoBiz is delivered by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, in partnership with the Palaszczuk Government, to work with small businesses to reduce their energy, water and waste consumptions.

More than 400 businesses are actively involved in the program and over 130 businesses have achieved ecoBiz Star Partnership and saved a total of \$650,000 in their bills. Since 2013, over 1,000 businesses have received personalised coaching sessions to implement cost saving and eco-efficient practices.

Doing more to encourage women and Indigenous business operators

Nationally, women make up 33 per cent of all business operators in Australia, and the number of businesses owned and managed by Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland increased by 81.7 per cent between 2006 and 2016.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering ongoing assistance for women and Indigenous business operators through the Advancing Women in Business initiative and the Advancing Indigenous Business program, which provide targeted support through programs, grants, events, mentoring and education.



Growing Queensland's small businesses

With support received through the Queensland Government's Small Business Digital Grants program, Eungella Realty is building its online presence and growing its business.

Fiona Matheson, Principal of Eungella Realty in Finch Hatton – west of Mackay, received \$2,395 through the Small Business Digital Grants program, which enabled her to fast track work to improve the business website. Without this essential funding, this work would have been delayed up to 12 months.

As a result, the business has grown and they are selling more properties. Importantly, Eungella Realty has taken on an extra full-time employee.

The Small Business Digital Grants program provides matched funding of up to \$10,000 to assist eligible businesses to access digital technologies and services for use in the business. For more information on the program, visit www.business.qld.gov.au

Photo above: Fiona Matheson, Bernice Hamilton and Danielle Ward from Eungella Realty.

When you Go Local, you Grow Local

Small businesses are the lifeblood of local communities. We know Queenslanders can help small businesses grow their business by shopping locally. Since 2017, the Go Local campaign has highlighted the critical role small businesses play in creating jobs, supporting economic growth and investing in their communities. In 2018-19, over \$600,000 will support a continuation of this campaign.

The Go Local campaign has also helped communities' recovery after natural disasters such as Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, and the Go Local Hub on the Business Queensland website helped Queenslanders donate to recovery efforts through local business and to find a local tradesperson.

Supporting small businesses through disaster recovery

As part of Operation Queensland Recovery: State Recovery Plan 2017-19, the Tourism and Small Business Recovery Package provided \$4.05 million towards recovery support for small businesses affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated flooding across Queensland. Through this funding, small businesses were able to access small business grants, dedicated workshops and mentoring services, including mental health counselling services.

133 businesses received grant funding under the package to quickly help them in response to the impact of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Creating jobs in a strong economy

Since 2015, the government has invested in a range of Back to Work initiatives to give Queensland businesses continued confidence to grow by taking on extra employees, including apprentices and trainees.

This investment includes \$305 million for the Back to Work Regional program, \$59 million for the Back to Work South East Queensland program, and \$5 million for the Mature Aged Worker Boost.

As at May 2018, over 13,000 employees have been hired by more than 6,400 employers under the Back to Work initiative, representing \$103.3 million in total payments.

In 2018-19, the Palaszczuk Government is providing additional funding of \$20.5 million over three years to continue the Back to Work program in areas of South East Queensland with significant labour market challenges and \$155 million throughout regional Queensland.

The Government has also committed \$1 million to implement a pilot program to deliver targeted skills and specialist business advice and mentoring support to Queenslanders who want to create their own future job.

Boosting business competitiveness

The \$40 million Made in Queensland Grant Program is assisting manufacturing SMEs across the state to become more competitive internationally, and to ramp up their productivity.

In 2018, the program will continue to provide matched grants of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million to eligible manufacturing SMEs for equipment and projects that assist them to become more productive, grow and create jobs.

Skilling Queenslanders for the future

Our highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative represents a significant investment of \$420 million over six years until 2020-21. It plays a critical role in increasing workforce participation, driving job growth and strengthening the Queensland economy by improving work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders.

Since 2015, \$206.8 million has been invested state-wide under the initiative to provide skills development, nationally recognised training and job opportunities to more than 40,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders. This includes \$188.8 million for more than 1,100 community-driven projects to assist over 39,000 people; \$11.25 million to 75 local councils and one statutory authority for 900 traineeships; \$3.68 million to community-based organisations for 184 traineeships; and

\$3.1 million to 181 private sector employers for employing former Skilling Queenslanders for Work participants as trainees or apprentices.

In 2018-19, \$80 million will be available under Skilling Queenslanders for Work to assist a minimum of 10,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government's Advancing Trade and Investment – Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2017-2022 included \$35 million for 22 new initiatives. Since September 2017, over 180 business operators have received export training to help them enter into new global markets. Additionally, around 20 SMEs have participated in international trade missions and Queensland showcase events to better represent their products and services overseas, with many SMEs securing export deals as a result.

Delivering incentives for regional business

The Palaszczuk Government has invested \$150 million under the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to incentivise regional private sector projects and job creation. This fund targets businesses in the agricultural resources, tourism, manufacturing and construction sectors to assist in their growth and expansion.

Financial assistance of between \$100,000 and \$10 million is available through the fund for projects that require direct and immediate assistance to help early stage development, expedite or facilitate expansion of operations, or develop common user infrastructure opportunities.



Photo: Bien and Deb Peralta from Dello Mano Luxury Chocolates in the historic Tattersalls Arcade.

QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2018-19



Supporting business to employ Queenslanders

The Queensland Government's Back to Work program provided Gladstone's Ginger Says an opportunity to hire Breeanna Diefenbach to work in her Gladstone styling and giftware store.

Michelle Wilson started Ginger Says after wanting to take a fresh approach to traditional gifting and sending floral arrangements. Ginger Says has grown from a home-based business to a shopfront based in Gladstone and online business.

"We have expanded into a new area and having extra manpower helped us grow the business. We have a retail gift store, online hamper business and now also offer floral design for weddings with artificial flowers," Ms Wilson said.

"Bree had been unemployed for four years so it was exciting for her to gain employment after such a long period of time. She is now being trained in the areas of customer service, merchandising, gift design and wrapping, floral design and window displays."

Photo above: Breeanna Diefenbach from Ginger Says

Fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$650 million through the Advance Queensland initiative to create the knowledge-based jobs of the future.

Designed to spur innovation-led economic growth, Advance Queensland programs are helping to translate great ideas into commercial success and support Queensland entrepreneurs to develop their products and services and compete in the global marketplace.

As at 31 December 2017, the Government has committed almost \$280 million to back over 2,600 innovators across Queensland. Their projects will drive almost 11,000 new jobs. \$206.2 million from the overall Advance Queensland budget has been allocated to support programs that assist and provide opportunities for small businesses.

The Ignite Ideas Fund provides grants of up to \$250,000 to support startups and SMEs to commercialise market ready innovative ideas that will help them grow and compete in a global market. Since launching the fund in 2016, four rounds have been completed.

Under the eHealth Queensland Digital Innovation Strategy, two funds have been established in 2017 to assist small businesses. The Digital Innovation Fund provides up to \$100,000 for proof of concept and up to \$500,000 for pilot projects involving startups and businesses. The Catalyst Innovation Program provides opportunities for startups to pitch and showcase their digital health solutions.

Inspiring small businesses to develop and enhance their digital capabilities

The Government is assisting businesses to enhance their digital capability through the Digital Business Capability Program. The program offers a Digital Scorecard and Digital Business workshops to identify ways of improving businesses' digital capability and become more competitive in today's digital marketplace.

As at 24 May 2018, the Government has invested \$256,000 in the Digital Business Capability Program. There have been over 1,300 Digital Scorecard assessments completed, 23 Digital Business Workshops delivered, and 390 Digital Business Workshop attendees.

The Government has also invested over \$4.9 million to support over 950 businesses under the Small Business Digital Grants program.

Making it easier to do business in Queensland

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the importance of streamlining regulation to make it easier to do business and have established the Better Regulation Taskforce to reduce regulatory burden on small businesses.

The taskforce plays a key role in providing advice to government on priority regulatory reform activities and initiatives. This work builds on broader efforts to put in place an operating environment that is strong, profitable and globally competitive for small businesses.

In 2018-19, we have committed \$1.1 million over four years to deliver the Business Impact Statement Project, which aims to increase awareness of the impact of government policy and regulation on small businesses.

A consultation paper for a Queensland Small Business Procurement Commitment has been released to better understand how small business can be supported to access procurement opportunities. The paper seeks feedback on a number of ideas and how else small businesses can be supported in supplying to government.

Supporting high-growth innovative businesses

The Business Development Fund is an early stage investment fund creating high value, knowledge based jobs now and into the future.

In 2018-19, the Palaszczuk Government has committed an additional \$40 million, bringing its total investment for the fund to \$80 million.

The Business Development Fund invests between \$125,000 and \$2.5 million alongside private sector co-investors for emerging and high growth innovative Queensland-based businesses to help turn their ideas and innovations into a commercial reality. Importantly, the Business Development Fund supports the growth of angel and venture capital investment available in Queensland, thereby continuing to strengthen Queensland's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The fund has invested \$28.9 million in 24 businesses as at 25 May 2018.