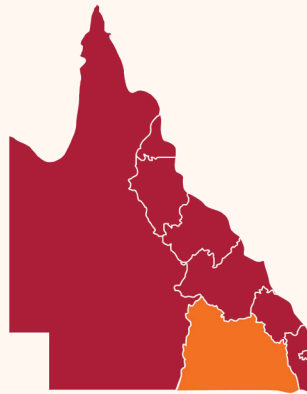


Powering small business – Darling Downs and Maranoa

- **\$1.1 billion Big Build** investment creating **3,000 jobs**¹
- Queensland's food bowl
- Transport and logistics hub
- Southern Queensland Renewable Energy Zone
- Innovative manufacturing sector
- New Toowoomba Hospital
- Expanding Aerospace Industry
- New **\$112 million disaster assistance package** delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government
- **\$13.4 million Small Business Support Program** to deliver one-on-one case management focused on mental health and financial security, partnerships with small local councils and chambers of commerce, and grants for small businesses.



33,390
small businesses²

Top 5 industries:



Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
(31.6%)



Construction
(13.9%)



Rental, hiring and real estate services
(9.5%)



Professional, scientific and technical services
(6.0%)



Transport, Postal and Warehousing
(6.0%)

Under our programs, Darling Downs and Maranoa small businesses have received:

- **\$2.07 million** in grants funding
- **143 Mentoring for Growth** sessions

Free TAFE³

5,056
FREE TAFE students and apprentices

Commencements from 2023

Back to Work³

740 job seekers and 381 local small businesses supported by **\$8.91 million**

Skilling Queenslanders for Work³

4,096 employed

\$47.11 million
in community programs

¹Big Build figures: Darling Downs Regional Action Plan, Queensland Budget 2023-24.

²Australian Bureau of Statistics – Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits.

³As at 30 April 2024.

Our new **Queensland Small Business Strategy 2024-27** is delivering for **Darling Downs and Maranoa small businesses** and supporting them to harness new opportunities:



Lowering the cost of doing business by providing a **\$650 energy rebate** for eligible small business, delivering the ecoBiz program to help reduce energy costs and save money on energy, waste and water costs, and helping to reduce business costs through delivery of the **Queensland Business Energy and Savings Transition Rebates program**.



Offering **Free TAFE** to help Queenslanders to access training and get started on the pathway to their chosen career.



Focusing on **procurement and supplying to government** to increase small business procurement opportunities and their ability to supply goods and services to continue to build on the **almost \$7 billion** already injected into Queensland-based small and medium businesses in 2022–23.



Continuing to foster innovation, build connections and engage with the small business community through the delivery of **Queensland Small Business Month** and the **Queensland Small Business Advisory Council**.



Building on the \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business Strategy 2021–2023, we are continuing to increase the operational capability and capacity of small business through **grant programs**, mentoring and coaching support, the **Business Launchpad**, and a **new Cyber Security Support Program**.



Delivering one-on-one case management support for small businesses focused on mental health and financial security.



Delivering additional funding for grants to support small business to implement workforce solutions under the **Workforce Connect Fund**; and extending the **Workforce Evolve Program** to help employers achieve future-ready, sustainable and inclusive workforces.



Continuing the delivery of the **Back to Work Program** to provide assistance to small businesses to attract, employ and retain workers facing disadvantage in the labour market.



Increasing investment and support for our diverse small business groups, including **Indigenous small businesses and social enterprises**, to help create jobs and economic opportunities and build a diverse workforce.

For more information on the *Queensland Small Business Strategy 2024–27*, visit: qld.gov.au/small-business-strategy