

Media Release

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Small business friendly initiative a win for Ipswich

Small businesses in Ipswich will be the first in Queensland to benefit from a new Small Business Friendly Councils (SBFC) commitment made by Ipswich City Council today.

Queensland Small Business Commissioner, Maree Adshead has co-signed the state's first SBFC Charter with Ipswich City Council Mayor Teresa Harding and both Chambers of Commerce in the region.

"This is an exciting and positive milestone for the small businesses in Ipswich." Ms Adshead said.

"This year continues to be challenging for small businesses as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19, these localised commitments to nurture a small business friendly community will help to raise the capability of small businesses and support their ongoing recovery." she said.

Mayor Harding said it was more important than ever for Council to show its support to small businesses.

"That is why we have worked closely with the Queensland Government to establish the Small Business Friendly Charter. It is fitting that today we proudly sign on to become the first council to join the Charter.

"We are committed to making it easier for small businesses across the city to do business with us and to strengthen our support to thousands of Ipswich small businesses going forward." she said.

Member for Ipswich Jennifer Howard said this was a great partnership for local business in Ipswich.

"Ipswich is home to some fantastic local small businesses and the more we can do to support them to grow and create more jobs for Ipswich the better," Ms Howard said.

Member for Jordan Charis Mullen said the commitment by the Council will ensure more small businesses in Ipswich will be supported.

"Small businesses make up over 97 per cent of all businesses in Ipswich, so the more we can support and advocate for them, the more our city will thrive," Ms Mullen said.

Over the past few months, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner has been working with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), Councils such as Ipswich and Chambers of Commerce across Queensland in the development of localised charters to help small businesses.

"Small businesses are at the heart of Queensland communities; they make an essential contribution to the Queensland economy and are part of our social fabric." Ms Adshead said.

“This is a commitment by Ipswich City Council and its partners to be mindful of small businesses, their issues and priorities when making decisions for the local community.” she said.

The SBFC charter has been developed in conjunction with Councils and is flexible to their local needs. It includes a commitment to:

- communicate and engage
- raise small businesses profile and capability
- support resilience and recovery
- simplify administration and regulation (red tape reduction)
- ensure fair procurement and prompt payment terms
- promote place-based activities.

“I have spoken with many Councils who are keen to get involved with this initiative, I’m hoping this will be the first of many charters signed in Queensland to support small businesses in every community.” Ms Adshead said.

Look out for the small business friendly identifier to recognise those Council’s participating in the initiative.



Find out more about the Small Business Friendly Council (SBFC) initiative at www.business.qld.gov.au/qsbc or by phoning 1300 312 344.

#avoiceforsmallbiz #smallbusinessfriendly

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Media Enquiries can be directed to Rebekah Godbold 07 3334 2479