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Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

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22 JUL 2026

Mr Rob Fairs MP
Member for Bass

By email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Fairs

In the House of Assembly on 27 May 2026 you asked the following question:

David of Launceston is a proud family-owned small business operator. He says he knows how important small businesses are to local jobs, regional communities and the broader community, as do I. Can you explain how the Tasmanian Government's consultation on the new Small Business Growth Strategy 2027-2037 will give small businesses a voice in shaping future support, and how the Rockliff Liberal Government is backing small businesses to grow, invest and succeed?

I congratulate David, and small business owners like him across Tasmania, for taking the risk, making the investment, and putting in the hard work required to run a small business. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and our communities. They create local jobs, support regional communities, back other local suppliers, and help keep Tasmania vibrant.

Tasmania has more than 42,000 small businesses, making up more than 97 per cent of all businesses in the State and employing more than one-third of the private sector workforce.

That is why the Rockliff Liberal Government is developing the next Small Business Growth Strategy, which will guide support for Tasmanian small businesses over the next decade.

Importantly, this strategy is being shaped by small businesses themselves. Consultation ran earlier this year, seeking input from small businesses, peak bodies, representative organisations and members of the public. Feedback was gathered through face-to-face and online sessions, surveys, written submissions, roundtables and stakeholder meetings.

That process received 60 online surveys, 11 written submissions, and feedback from more than 100 participants through roundtable events. This will help ensure the new strategy reflects the real experiences of small business operators across Tasmania, including regional businesses such as those in Launceston and northern Tasmania.

But we are not waiting for the next strategy to back small business.

Through Business Tasmania, our Government is providing practical support for businesses to start, run and grow. In February this year, I launched the refreshed Business Tasmania website, with more extensive information and improved tools, including a Grants and Funding Finder and a Tools and Support Finder.

We are also providing free, independent, one-on-one advisory support through the Tasmanian Business Advice Service, offering eligible small businesses up to five hours of advice on issues such as cashflow, marketing, risk management, business planning and strategy. For new and intending businesses, the New Business Support Service provides targeted advice on business structures, licensing, viability and financial forecasting.

The message to Tasmania's small businesses is clear: this Government values you, we are listening to you, and we are backing you to grow, invest and succeed.

The new strategy will ensure our support remains practical, targeted and shaped by the people who know small business best, small business operators themselves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

Cc: Rob.Fairs@dpac.tas.gov.au