

Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs

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Mr Simon Behrakis MP
Liberal Member for Clark

Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Behrakis,

Thank you for the Constituency Question you asked in Parliament on 19 September 2024 regarding grant and advisory programs available to Tasmania's small business sector.

"On National Family business Day, many small business owners in my community have asked me how the 2024-25 Budget is continuing to help small businesses, particularly given the higher interest rates that they are currently paying, which is affecting them".

In response to your Constituency Question, I can advise the following.

Tasmania's small businesses will receive the support they need to thrive with the 2024-25 Budget driving the delivery of the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future.

The Budget continues to promote a business-friendly investment environment, with the Tasmanian Government confirming no new or increased taxes.

We have provided \$300 energy payments supporting up to 35,000 small business as part of our Supercharged Renewable Energy Dividend, helping reduce the burden of energy bill pressures.

The Government is progressing its plan to slash red tape and make it easier for businesses to do business. We are committed to implementing single-form tendering for all tenders under \$250,000 which will save small business owners time and money.

The 2024-25 Budget includes \$1 million for businesses to access grants up to \$10,000 for small capital purchases such as computers, electronic payment terminals and new technology.

Vibrant multicultural small businesses will also benefit from \$400,000 over the next two years, with grants of up to \$5,000 available to support enterprises by building capability and helping with new skills.

Regional Chambers of Commerce – critical across Tasmania – will receive \$400,000 over the next four years to enable members to consult about delivering the Small Business Growth Strategy and developing the next iteration of the strategy.

The Tasmanian Small Business Council (TSBC) will continue to receive \$65,000 annually from the government to enable it to provide a range of fundamental services to Tasmanian businesses.

The Tasmanian Government backs our small business 100 per cent and I have stated previously "We want them to have the confidence to grow, invest and create even more jobs".

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson', written over the printed name.

Michael Ferguson MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs