1. The complexity of the operating environment for small businesses increased considerably following the impact of measures introduced to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
2. On 22 April 2020, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020* (the Act) was passed by the Legislative Assembly. The Act received assent on 23 April 2020.
3. The Act includes provisions to establish a temporary Queensland Small Business Commissioner (Commissioner) to deliver expanded advocacy functions for small business and administer mediation services in relation to small business tenancy disputes.
4. The Act provides that the functions of the Commissioner are to:
* provide information and advisory services to the public about matters relevant to small businesses, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 response measures;
* assist small businesses in reaching an informal resolution for disputes relating to small business leases; and
* administer a mediation process prescribed by regulation under section 23(1)(g) of the Act in relation to small business tenancy disputes.
1. Cabinet endorsed that Ms Maree Adshead be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment as the Queensland Small Business Commissioner for a term commencing from the date of Governor in Council approval until 31 December 2020.
2. *Attachments*
* Nil.