1. Small businesses are a significant component of the Queensland economy. They represent around 97 per cent of all businesses and employ over 914,000 people, or 42 per cent of the private sector workforce in Queensland. They collectively contributed $117.3 billion to the state’s economy in 2019-20.
2. The temporary Queensland Small Business Commissioner (QSBC) was able to support National Cabinet’s *Mandatory Code of Conduct SME Commercial Leasing Principles during COVID‑19* which applied to all tenancies that were suffering financial stress or hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The temporary QSBC has played a critical role in avoiding lengthy and costly leasing disputes during the pandemic through the provision of easily accessible and timely information, advice and mediation services.
4. The Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021 permanently establishes a Queensland Small Business Commissioner and supporting office to enhance the operating environment for small business in Queensland and to reduce the time and costs with resolving disputes involving small businesses.
5. Cabinet approved that the Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
6. *Attachments*:
* [Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility with the *Human Rights Act 2019*](Attachments/SoC.PDF)