



Small Business & the Local Economy

The people who keep our Peninsula running

Where I stand

Small businesses keep much of our Peninsula running.

They're the cafes, shops, trades, tourism operators and family businesses that employ local people, support community groups and give our towns their character.

But they don't all face the same pressures. A cafe, a builder and a local retailer deal with different costs, rules and government departments. There isn't one policy that will fix everything for everyone.

I'll talk directly to local chambers of commerce and business owners, find out which costs and rules controlled by the Victorian Government are hurting them most, and go after the ones that bite hardest.

One unfairness is already clear. Because the Mornington Peninsula is classified as metropolitan, eligible employers here can't receive the lower payroll-tax rate available to eligible employers in places such as Geelong.

Payroll tax doesn't affect every small business. But for employers that do pay it, the difference can affect whether they grow and employ more local people.

The people having a go here deserve a representative who will listen, do the homework and turn what they hear into action.

What I'll do

1. Put local businesses in the room

I'll hold roundtables with chambers of commerce and business owners across Nepean. That will include small and home-based businesses that are often left out of government consultation.

Together, we'll identify the state taxes, charges, regulations and delays causing the greatest problems locally.

I'll publish the priorities we agree on, the action I'm taking and the government's response, so consultation leads somewhere.

2. Go after the barriers that hurt most

I'll take those priorities directly to the responsible ministers and government agencies and push for practical changes.



That could include WorkCover costs, licences and permits, waste charges, regulation or other pressures controlled by the Victorian Government. The priorities will be set by evidence from the businesses dealing with them.

I'll also fight to include the Mornington Peninsula in the regional payroll-tax definition, so eligible local employers can receive the same lower rate as eligible employers in regional Victoria.

What progress looks like

Success means:

- local business priorities turned into specific state action;
- eligible Peninsula employers given fair payroll-tax treatment; and
- clear public reporting on what has changed, what hasn't and what I'm doing about it.