

SMALL BUSINESS — RED TAPE REDUCTION — REPEAL WEEK

818. Mr C.D. HATTON to the Minister for Small Business:

Small business makes a significant contribution to our state's economy and the way we live our lives. Can the minister please inform the house of some of the actions this government has taken in the past five years to assist small business to operate in Western Australia?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for his question and I acknowledge the Premier's work in spearheading repeal week. In fact, I acknowledge you, Mr Speaker, because from memory, you were one of the first people to flag the idea of having a period in which we repeal obsolete and red tape legislation. I am convinced that what the government is doing this week —

Ms M.M. Quirk: How about mobile phones in prisons?

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, we have been through the issue of mobile phones in prisons, thank you. I call you to order for the second time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I am convinced that repeal week will be welcomed by small business across Western Australia. There are 211 000 small businesses registered across the state that provide about 80 per cent of jobs for the people of Western Australia. Western Australia is not really a resource-based economy; it is a small business-based economy. I am proud to be part of a government that is doing everything it can to help small business grow into bigger business. The government has implemented a number of reforms. On top of that, it has introduced two new bills to Parliament this week that will help reduce unnecessary red tape.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: In repeal week, you are introducing bills.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The Consumer Protection Legislation Amendment Bill 2000 will ease administrative burdens on the retail sector, the motor vehicle repair sector and property industries. The Ports Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 will improve port efficiency and the use of port infrastructure.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have undertaken to increase the payroll tax threshold from the current \$750 000 a year by \$50 000 a year into the future. Over the next four years it is expected to save more than 16 000 small businesses \$121 million in tax. On top of that, there has been an additional \$250 million in tax relief for small business over the last term of government.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: We have established the Small Business Commissioner, and part of that involves the role of alternative dispute resolution. It is an awesome achievement in trying to —

Ms M.M. Quirk: How are you going for lease registers, minister?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Every time the member for Girrawheen opens her mouth —

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Every time the member for Girrawheen opens her mouth, she reinforces my belief about why the Labor Party believes in quotas.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first time, member for Armadale for the second time, member for Albany for the second time and member for Willagee for the third time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Alternative dispute resolution is a brilliant achievement for small business to resolve small business disputes without tying up the courts or burdening small business with expensive legal fees. It is a brilliant result for small business, and it has been well and truly utilised by business operators across Western Australia.

On Friday night, the regional small business awards took place here in Perth. It was wonderfully represented. Almost 500 people from across regional Western Australia came together to celebrate and acknowledge the brilliant achievements of small businesses across the length and breadth of our great state. The winner was, of course, from the member for Albany's electorate—the Great Southern Distilling company owned by Cameron Syme. It is a wonderful achievement and it is great to see small business growing into big business. We should all congratulate him on a job well done.