

Dear Mackellar Business Owner,

With Small Business Month upon us, I'm leading the fight to back the 33,000 businesses on the Northern Beaches that support our local economy and employ over 110,000 people.

It's never been tougher to be a small business owner. I'm making sure Mackellar's business wins and the barriers they face are heard in Parliament. Whether championing Ingleside-based Drop Truck, highlighting SmartMC's advanced medtech manufacturing in Belrose, tackling transport fuel costs with Forestville's Herdy Rideshare, or identifying pressures on local trades with Manly Warringah Master Builders Association, I'm determined to give our local businesses a strong voice for action in Canberra.

Thank you to the many businesses who participated in my Post-Budget Survey and identified the need for key measures that reduce the regulatory burden, enable businesses to invest and grow and address the cost of doing business. See my recent interview on the challenges small businesses face on *Weekend Today* here. Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy!

To share news and views about your business, please get in touch with our Business Engagement Officer via sonia.powell@aph.gov.au

Coming Up

AI Expertise for Small Business
Looking to make better use of AI in your business?
The Digital Solutions Program, funded by the Australian Government, provides small business owners with access to five hours of one-on-one expert mentoring, practical workshops, webinars and the effective use of AI. The program requires a $110 contribution or is free for businesses experiencing a reduction in revenue. Northen Beaches Council are also hosting two AI specific workshops on Tuesday 27th October at the Warriewood Community Centre. For more details and to sign up here.

Business Advice is Back!
Get four hours of free, expert advice from independent business advisors with experience running a small business, on business planning, marketing, finance,

staff and digital skills. Funded by the NSW Government and delivered via Service NSW, the workshops and webinars offer practical business skills, access networking opportunities and online resources. Please apply here.

Changes to Card Payment Surcharges

From this month, businesses will no longer be able to apply surcharges to EFTPOS, Mastercard, Visa or American Express payments. Weekend, public holiday and other surcharges may still apply, provided customers are clearly informed before making a purchase. Practical guidance and resources to help your business prepare are available here.

Coming Soon - Business Boost!

I'll be putting up a Small Business Productivity Package to boost support for small businesses across Australia, including a tax-free threshold. Keep an eye out for more information from my team.

Have Your Say

The Australian Government is consulting on possible reforms under National Competition Policy, including more consistent retail tenancy rules across Australia. To find out more and have your say on which parts of retail tenancy regulation work well and where greater consistency may help, visit Harmonising retail tenancies across Australia - Consult hub. **Closes 12 October 2026.**

Here to Help

My team and I are here to support local businesses. Visit my website for information on free government programs, grants and resources that may help your business grow. If you would like assistance identifying support services or making connections with organisations that may be able to help, please get in touch by emailing sophie.scamps.mp@aph.gov.au or calling my team on 9913 9566.

Best,
Sophie

DR sophie scamps MP

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