



17 March 2011

Small Business Commissioner Legislation Welcomed

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed the introduction of legislation into Parliament to establish a Small Business Commissioner in Western Australia.

The Small Business and Retail Shop Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 was introduced into State Parliament this week by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Small Business, Liza Harvey.

Dr Nahan said he is confident the appointment of a Small Business Commissioner will enhance a competitive and fair operating environment in WA and provide an effective means of resolving business-to-business disputes through alternative dispute resolution.

"The commissioner will provide a low-cost, non-litigious way of resolving business disputes, which should be a valuable asset to small businesses in this electorate," said Dr Nahan.

Dr Nahan said the new Small Business Commissioner would be modelled on the successful Victorian commissioner and would have expanded capabilities, representing a significant improvement.

"The Small Business Commissioner will be established within the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) and replace the position of the SBDC Managing Director," he said.

"Overall, the new commissioner will enhance the powers and functions of the SBDC and increase the range of services available for WA's small business owners and operators.

"The drafting of the Bill has involved extensive consultation, and as extended trading hours have already commenced, it is hoped the Bill will be passed without delay."

"The new role will include educative, advisory, investigative and mediation services, together with the existing advocacy and policy functions of the SBDC. I call on the Opposition to support the Bill, to ensure its passage is not delayed to the detriment of small business in our community."

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