

MAY–JUNE 2026



Lord Mayor, Adrian Schinner

## Putting the spotlight on Brisbane for Small Business Month: Lord Mayor

May is Small Business Month and a chance to recognise the businesses that make Brisbane such a great place to live, work and invest.

Our most recent State of the City Report highlights Brisbane's incredible economic momentum and what that means for businesses across our city.

Brisbane's economy has now surpassed \$200 billion, with strong growth across key industries like health, logistics, construction and tourism.

With more than 600 people moving to Brisbane each week, increased investment in major infrastructure, greater global attention and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games fast approaching, the outlook for local businesses has never been brighter.

As the most small-business-friendly city in Australia, we're making it easier for businesses to start, grow and succeed.

Head to our website to find out how we can back your business today.

# Supporting local precincts to thrive

We're helping to make Brisbane Australia's most small-business-friendly city by delivering initiatives that encourage customers to visit local retail precincts and spend more time shopping locally.

On Friday 8 May, Brunswick Street Live is energising Fortitude Valley with a celebration of live music, drawing visitors to Brisbane's iconic entertainment hub.

We're also running a Support Local Wynnum competition in May to inspire the community to shop and win in Wynnum Town Centre during Queensland Small Business Month.

June brings the return of Dine BNE City, encouraging diners to explore the CBD's dynamic food culture through exclusive offers.

Meanwhile, our Growing Precincts Together program provides support to promote, refresh and activate local retail precincts.

Visit our website and search 'Precinct Playbook' for online resources and practical advice to promote, support, refresh and activate your local precinct.



## Nominate a business trailblazer

Our diverse business community helps make Brisbane the best place to live, work and relax.

The Lord Mayor's Multicultural Business Awards recognise the contribution business leaders from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds make to the Brisbane economy and community.

If you know a standout multicultural business leader who's achieving great things, and is helping grow Brisbane's reputation through their success, now's the time to champion them.

Nominations close on Sunday 24 May, with the winners announced at a special event in Brisbane City Hall.

Visit our website and search 'Multicultural Business Awards' for more information.

## Need a permit? We're here to help

We make applying for business-related permits in Brisbane simple with online applications and support every step of the way.

Whether you're starting a new business, moving to new premises or expanding your services, you can find out what licences or permits you need and apply on our website.

If you need to submit a development application, you can request a pre-lodgement meeting to discuss your proposal with one of our experienced officers.

Our Business Hotline is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing important information on a range of services, including food licensing, planning and development applications, and business opportunities.

Call 133 BNE (133 263) to get the help you need, when you need it.





## What's on

### AI STRATEGIES TO TRANSFORM YOUR BUSINESS

**20 May, 9am–12 noon, Suburban Business Hub, Nundah, Free**

This interactive workshop will explore how AI is transforming the way businesses of all sizes connect with customers.

[brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au)

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT MARKETING PLATFORM FOR YOUR BUSINESS

**3 June, 9am–12 noon, Suburban Business Hub, Nundah, Free**

Understand key digital marketing platforms, including Meta, Google and TikTok, to help you manage your marketing budget for best results.

[brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au)

### BUILDING TRUE FINANCIAL FREEDOM

**18 June, 9.30–11.30am, Brisbane Business Hub, Brisbane City, Free**

Take control of your personal finances and build financial security that serves you beyond the sale of your business.

[businesshub.brisbane.qld.au](http://businesshub.brisbane.qld.au)

### MENTORING FOR GROWTH

**24 June, 9am–3pm, Suburban Business Hub, Nundah, Free**

Register for a confidential session where you'll be matched with experts who can share tips, information and resources.

[brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au)

## Women entrepreneurs share in \$250,000 boost

We're supporting 52 women-owned businesses with the 2026 Lord Mayor's Women in Business Grant, delivered by the Brisbane Economic Development Agency.

This year's recipients span health, architecture, technology and more, and will share in \$250,000 to help their businesses grow.

Among the recipients is Pitch It Up, founded by Emma Thomson (pictured), who has built an inclusive sports innovation business. The company developed a multi-purpose cricket training aid and is creating an industry-first audible cricket ball for blind and low-vision players.

Beyond funding, all recipients also take part in a 12-month business development program, designed to strengthen leadership capability, skills and networks.

Since launching in 2021, the program has supported more than 260 Brisbane businesses, providing \$1.25 million in funding to help women-led enterprises grow, innovate and create jobs across the city.



## Upskill with evening AI workshops

Work smarter by mastering AI with our special after-hours online workshops presented by Business Foundations during Queensland Small Business Month.

- **Reclaim your Time: AI for Small Businesses:** 6–8pm, Tuesday 12 May
- **Using AI for Everyday Marketing:** 6–8pm, Monday 18 May

Led by digital strategist Corrie Dark, the hands-on workshops cover AI basics, including choosing the right tools, and marketing and content creation tips.

Learn how to use AI to save time, reduce admin tasks, and create content for market awareness and social media to drive sales.

To register, visit our website and search 'business events'.

[BRISBANE.QLD.GOV.AU](http://BRISBANE.QLD.GOV.AU) OR PHONE 3403 8888

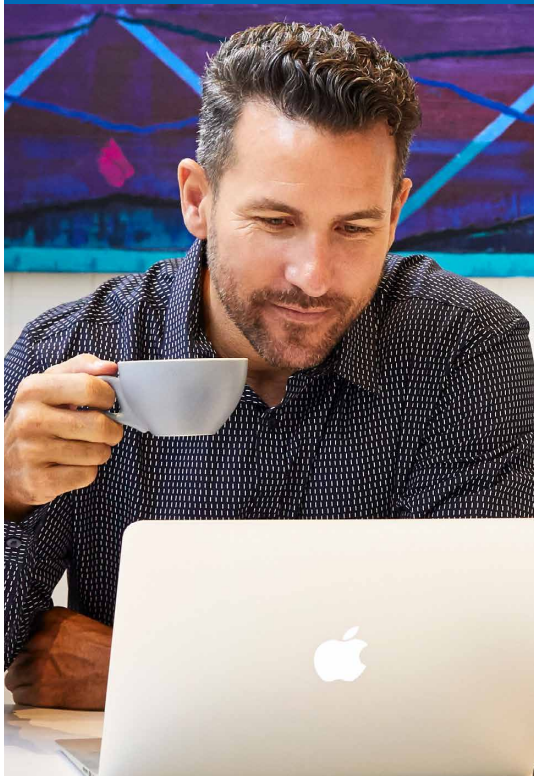
# Find tenders, support and business connections

Stay informed, build connections and make the most of opportunities available to Brisbane businesses by tapping into our key channels.

- Register as a supplier in our online Supplier Portal to receive tender alerts and stay informed about upcoming procurement opportunities.
- Subscribe to our monthly *Business in Brisbane* e-newsletter for news on our business events, programs and support services.
- Join our *Business in Brisbane* Facebook group to connect with other local businesses, share insights and expand your network.

They're all part of our commitment to support Brisbane businesses so they can develop, grow and thrive.

Visit our website for more information.



## Brisbane is alive with opportunity

We're creating new opportunities for Brisbane businesses by drawing more tourism, investment, skilled talent and partnerships to the city.

The tourism marketing campaign *Brisbane Favours the Bold*, led by Brisbane Economic Development Agency, returns in July after a March-April burst, while the *Alive with Opportunity* campaign positions the city as the premier destination to invest, innovate and grow.

With Brisbane's economy forecast to reach \$275 billion by 2041 and global attention building ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, new opportunities are emerging across key sectors including health, advanced manufacturing and construction.

Find out more at [choose.brisbane.qld.au/opportunity](https://choose.brisbane.qld.au/opportunity)

## Don't get caught out when severe weather strikes

Running a business in Australia's most disaster-prone state means unexpected disruptions such as power outages, road closures and flash flooding can happen at a moment's notice.

Protect your staff, customers and operations by monitoring changing conditions on our Emergency Dashboard.

Located on our website, the dashboard provides real-time alerts and updates from trusted agencies in one central place, helping you make strategic decisions when conditions change.

Bookmark our Emergency Dashboard for quick access to critical information before, during and after severe weather.

Brisbane City Council acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the Dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow.



Brisbane City Council  
GPO Box 1434  
Brisbane Qld 4001

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CA25-531560-08-7533  
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