

I've spent a couple of decades as a small owner in Cairns in a couple of different fields and have spent time in management of medium sized businesses as well.

As I said at the debate small business is a Huge deal to me.

Small business is the Nations biggest employer yet we are strangled by bureaucracy and subjected to unintended consequences from decisions made in Canberra and Brisbane by politicians with little understanding of business or the realities we face in FNQ.

I am a big advocate of having businesses and staff work together for the greater good. When business is good and strong we can employ more people as well as spend more money in the local economy.

Finding Good staff is always a challenge and hanging on to them is vital. The juggling of carrying underperforming ones can also be a burden.

I have been very vocal on the problem of brain and skills drain from the region.

My wife and I have 5 kids and we want to see the region grow so they can make a go of life here instead of having to move south to be successful.

I'm very strong on employing locals but acknowledge when the right staff aren't available we need assistance to get staff from elsewhere so business can flourish.

Two of the biggest handbrakes on business are insurance and electricity prices. I have raised both of these with pathways to reduce them substantially.

Qld Labor is profiting \$3B from electricity but they fail to understand the impact this has on families discretionary spending and on business operating costs which flows on to less jobs.

If elected I will bring a private members bill to legislate insurance company's to treat the whole nation as one market. This will immediately reduce our insurance premiums in FNQ back to a more acceptable level.

The likelihood of a hung parliament is looking more likely.

Should I win Leichhardt and we are in a balance of power situation there is no doubt this will open the flood gates of funding to our region.

We have been short changed billions over the last 2 decades.

I have a plan and a list in place to negotiate forming government. I am prepared for discussions with the Prime Minister next week.

Kind regards

Daniel McCarthy  
KAP candidate for Leichhardt