



Guy Barnett MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR LYONS

Small business in Tasmania

A small business employs less than 20 people (including non-employing businesses), is usually independently owned and operated, with close control over operations and decisions held by the owners. Generally, one or two people are required to make all of the critical management decisions – finance, accounting, staffing, purchasing, processing, marketing and selling - without the aid of specialists or specific knowledge. Small firms are not simply small-scale versions of large companies. They have many features that are not found in large organisations and have to be managed differently.

There is an estimated 37,100 businesses in Tasmania and of those, around **36,800 are small businesses** (97 per cent).

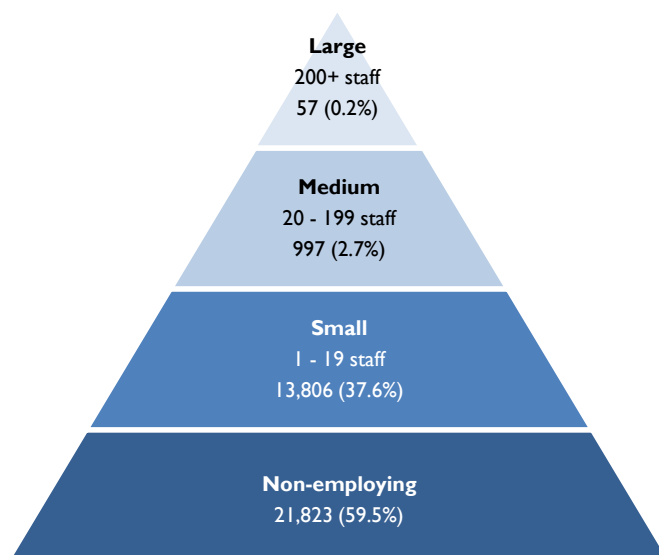
A decade ago there were around 33,500 small businesses in Tasmania, an increase of approximately 10 per cent.

Of the small businesses in Tasmania today, around 22,000 (60 per cent) are non-employing, micro-businesses.

Approximately 100,000 people are employed by small businesses in Tasmania.

Why small business is important for Tasmania

Small businesses make a vital contribution to a successful Tasmanian economy and community. In addition to being a major contributor to the economy in terms of output, employment and number of businesses, the small business sector in Tasmania is self-reliant, innovative, responsive and entrepreneurial by nature.



Key Facts about Small Business in Tasmania

36 000 small businesses in Tasmania	Almost one third of small business operators are aged over 50
97% of all businesses in Tasmania	Over a third of small business operators are women
78% of small business are located in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie & Devonport	Almost a quarter of all small business operators are born overseas
60% are non-employing	One third work part-time
39% of small businesses are in exporting industries	92% of small business owners operate one business (8% have multiple small businesses)

Five industries account for almost 60% of Tasmania's small businesses

Tasmania's small businesses exist in a range of industries, with high representation in agriculture/forestry/fishing, construction and services.

Almost 40 per cent of small businesses in Tasmania are in exporting industries (mining, agriculture/ forestry/fishing, transport/postal/warehousing, manufacturing and construction).

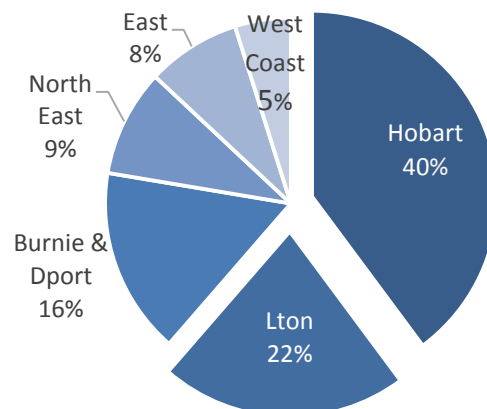
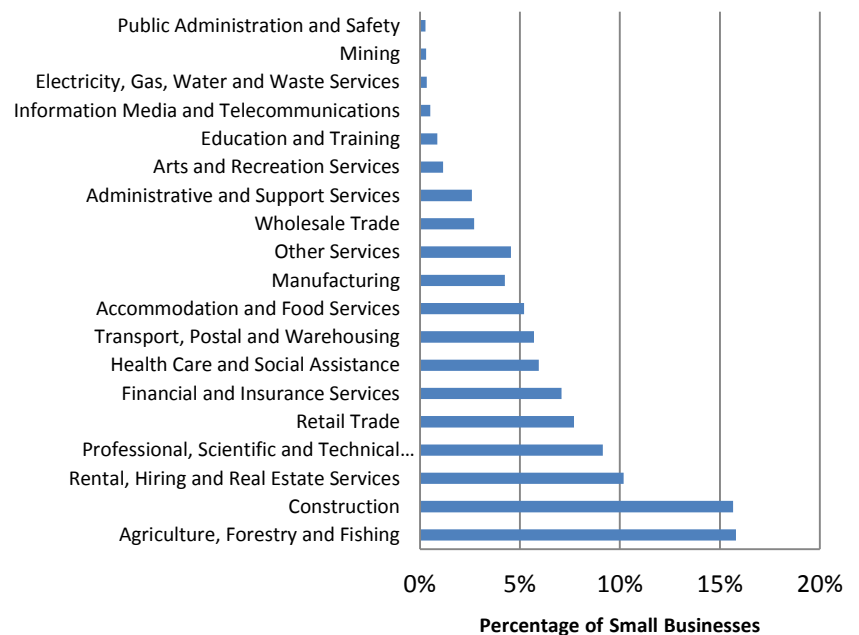
Two fifths Tasmania's small businesses are in regional areas

16 per cent are in the north west.

Two thirds of small businesses are based in Hobart and Launceston.

All data sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, for further data, please visit www.abs.gov.au

Small Business Industries



Note from Guy Barnett

As the Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business, I am particularly keen to hear about the current and future challenges and opportunities for small business.

Please submit your feedback or questions here www.guybarnett.com

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