

# Thomas George MP

member for lismore

june 2004



## Welcome

Small businesses play a vital role in NSW, employing many people and generating significant wealth for our economy.



Re-opening of Oaten's Retravision, Casino

More than 370,000 businesses in NSW have less than 20 workers and are recognised as belonging to the small business sector, which makes up over 90% of all businesses in NSW.

However, as I move around the electorate many small business operators express the view that government doesn't understand the pressures you face and fails to offer real assistance to help you grow.

This newsletter is an attempt to provide relevant information to local owners, seek your views on a range of State issues and give you details on how I can be contacted.

If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Your feedback helps me do my job better.

Thomas George

## Mini Budget

The following announcements were made by the Treasurer on 6 April during the State's first Mini Budget.

### Vendor Duty

A Vendor Duty of 2.25% will apply to consideration received on the sale or disposal of property, other than on the sale or disposal of a principal place of residence or farm. Liable properties will be exempt from the duty where the vendor's sale price or value on disposal does not exceed the purchase price or value on acquisition by more than 12%. This exemption phases out between 12% and 15%.

There will also be an exemption for the first sale by builders or developers of new dwellings. This will include "off the plan" sales. Vendor Duty applies to liable contracts executed on or after 1 June 2004.

### Land Tax

- Abolition of the current land tax threshold effective from the 2005 land tax year
- Replacing the current single marginal rate of 1.7% with the following marginal rate scale:
  - A land value of less than \$400,000 will pay a land tax rate of 0.4%
  - A land value of between \$400,001 and \$500,000 will pay a land tax rate \$1,600 plus 0.6% on the value of land above \$400,000
  - A land value above \$500,000 will pay a land tax rate of \$2,200 plus 1.4% on the value of land above \$500,000
- The provision of relief from land tax where the amount of tax owed is less than \$100
- Introduction of a deferral mechanism for low income earners with taxable properties below \$300,000 in value that do not generate income

### Seniors Card

My office produces a free local Seniors Card Business Directory. This year's publication includes over 200 businesses in the Northern Rivers area offering discounts.

NSW boasts the biggest number of Seniors Card Members in Australia - nearly one million and growing fast - the directory remains an influential communications tool to promote your business to seniors.

If your business would like to participate or find out more about the Seniors Card Scheme, contact my office for details.



Northern Rivers Group  
Training Awards  
Photo courtesy The Northern Star

## Programs to Assist Small Business

The New South Wales Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) has a number of programs and initiatives to assist small business. They include the:

- Small Business Expansion Program
- High Growth Business Program
- Women in Business Mentor Program
- E-Commerce Business Reviews
- Technology Diffusion Program
- Small Business Advisory Centres

More information can be obtained from the DSRD's website at [www.business.nsw.gov.au](http://www.business.nsw.gov.au) or by phoning 6622 4011.



Working at Stuart Bros. Butchery, Kyogle

## Occupational Health and Safety

The legal obligations for all parties in the workplace are set out in the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001.

As an employer you must provide:

- A safe workplace and safe ways of working
- Equipment, tools and machinery in a safe condition
- Safe and hygienic facilities, including toilets, eating areas and first aid
- Information, training and supervision to all workers
- A process for consultation with workers and to keep workers informed and involved in decisions that may affect their health and safety
- Processes for identifying hazards, assessing risks and controlling risks i.e. risk management.

To assist small business operators understand their obligations WorkCover has produced free the Small Business Safety Checklist & the Community Services Safety Pack. You can obtain copies from the website at [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au) or by telephoning 13 10 50.

<i>contacts</i>	Lismore City Council	6625 0500	<i>links</i>	NSW Government Home Page	<a href="http://www.nsw.gov.au">www.nsw.gov.au</a>
	Richmond Valley Council	6660 0300		NSW Government's small business website	<a href="http://www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au">www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au</a>
	Kyogle Council	6632 1611		NSW Department of State & Regional Development	<a href="http://www.business.nsw.gov.au">www.business.nsw.gov.au</a>
<i>contacts</i>	Lismore Police	6623 1599	<i>links</i>	NSW WorkCover website	<a href="http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au">www.workcover.nsw.gov.au</a>
	Casino Police	6662 0099		NSW Office of Industrial Relations website	<a href="http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au">www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au</a>
	Kyogle Police	6632 1444		NSW Department of Fair Trading website	<a href="http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au">www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au</a>
<i>contacts</i>	Bonalbo Police	6665 1144	<i>links</i>		
	Woodenbong Police	6635 1144			
	Nimbin Police	6689 1244			
	Urbenville Police				

**Please complete the following if you would like to be included on my mailing list to receive future information relating to any of the below topics.**

Workers Compensation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Award Wages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Payroll Tax Occupational	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consumer, Trader & Tenancy Tribunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grants assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employer/employee dispute resolution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocational training	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax to 66221403 or mail to PO Box 52, Lismore 2480