1. The economic impacts of COVID-19 are continuing to evolve and it is likely that there will be   
   long-term effects on the Queensland economy and for the business community.
2. On 7 April 2020, the Prime Minister announced the National Cabinet agreement on the National Cabinet Mandatory Code of Conduct – SME Commercial Leasing Principles, to be legislated by the State-Territory Governments to aid commercial tenancies in financial distress and unable to meet their lease commitments due to COVID-19 impacts.
3. The operating environment for small businesses has considerably increased in recent weeks as a result of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The establishment of a Small Business Commissioner provides small businesses with a single point of information and advice, particularly in relation to dispute resolution.
4. Cabinet approved the inclusion of the provisions in the COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020 to provide:
   1. a legislative framework for the Government’s response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Queensland on certain non-residential tenancies; and
   2. the establishment of a temporary Small Business Commissioner to deliver small business advocacy functions and dispute resolution support.
5. *Attachments*

* [COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020 – Non-residential Tenancies and Small Business Commissioner](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)