

Media Release

The Hon Adem Somyurek MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Small Business



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Wednesday, 24 April 2019

BACKING THE BENDIGO BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting Bendigo business by committing \$30,000 to Be.Bendigo's local business events program.

Minister for Small Business Adem Somyurek confirmed the funding at a meeting today with Be.Bendigo chief executive Dennis Bice and the Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards.

The money will support events for the local business community, starting with the highly-anticipated announcement of the Greater Bendigo Business Trends Survey results at the end of May.

The survey results will provide local businesses with a greater understanding of the environment they are operating in and the chance to discuss common issues that can be resolved together as a community.

Be.Bendigo will also use the survey findings to deliver more events focused on creating sustainable and innovative business practices in Bendigo.

The funding is part of the Labor Government's commitment to be the best state in Australia in which to build a small business.

More than 600,000 small businesses operate in Victoria and they have increased faster than anywhere else in Australia according to the ABS.

By supporting small businesses in Bendigo, the Labor Government is helping create more local jobs and boost the region's economy.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Small Business Adem Somyurek

"We are creating a more supportive business environment and this funding will enable small businesses in Bendigo to get together more often to identify trends and get on top of issues."

"The work of Be.Bendigo empowers local businesses to keep improving and thriving, which is important for a more prosperous Greater Bendigo."

Quote attributable to the Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"Whether it's through cuts to payroll tax in regional Victoria or support like this, the Andrews Labor Government backs small businesses and we want to see them thrive."

Quote attributable to the Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan

"Small business is at the heart of Bendigo's community – we'll continue to support local businesses so they can keep creating local jobs and boosting our region's economy."

Media contact: Casey Lodge 0410 964 928 | jobsmedia@minstaff.vic.gov.au