

Federal Election Q&A with the Barker Candidates – Summary of Results

The Federal Election Online Q&A session for the Barker electorate was organised by the Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce to gather insights into how the upcoming election could benefit our local business community. All ten Barker candidates were invited to participate, with a strong focus on business-related questions submitted by our members. While questions were categorised into a range of topics, the primary emphasis remained on issues directly impacting local businesses.

The aim of the session was to keep our members informed about the candidates' positions and the election process, strengthening our community's understanding of the election's potential impact on the local economy.



MEET THE BARKER CANDIDATES

 Tony PASIN	 Rosa HILLAM	 Jonathan PIETZSCH	 James ROTHE	 Jennifer TROETH
 Michael BROHIER	 Ian PENNO	 Robert JAMESON	 Major Moogy SUMNER	 Cody SCHOLLES

2025 Federal Election**Saturday 3rd May 2025**

Michael Brohier

1. Business Taxes and Financial Support

- Q. What changes to business taxes do you propose, and how will they benefit small business?

A. In order to enable families to thrive, Family First will work with small business to understand their needs. Family First will evaluate existing government taxes and regulations, and seek to reduce roadblocks which prevent small business from succeeding.

- Q. How will you ensure small businesses have better access to loans and financial support?

A. We will collaborate with small business owners to make sure they are aware of existing loans - and identify gaps where federal government can provide better support.

2. Support for Small Businesses

- Q. How will you support programs to help small businesses find skilled employees?

A. Family First will work both ends of this issue - ensuring education programs are developing sufficient skilled employees for industry, and secondly supporting programs which connect small business to the right employees.

- Q. What initiatives will you introduce to help businesses adopt new technologies and innovate?

A. The decision to adopt new technologies and innovate will always lie with the business and their expertise in understanding which technologies are the right fit to improve productivity. Family First will engage businesses to understand where additional Federal government support might assist implementation of new technologies.

- Q. If elected, what will you and your party do to help ease the pressures on small business? With rising costs of power, wages, rent, supply chain issues, cost of living pressures for our customers, how will you look to easing these? Many businesses are finding it increasingly hard to stay afloat and the flow-on effect is killing small business.

A. One of the primary ways Family First will support the electorate of Barker is by supporting policies which reduce the cost of electricity. The Labor government's

commitment to renewables is driving up the cost of electricity. Family First will support natural gas exploration and investments in nuclear energy to create cheap, sustainable energy production.

- Q. What economic policy do you think needs to be introduced or changed to help the small business of Barker?

A. Reducing the cost-of-living is an essential factor in supporting small business. By reducing the cost of living through increasing housing supply and decreasing energy prices, Family First will fight to reduce pressures on small businesses.

- Q. How will you support programs to help small businesses find skilled employees, including through migration and reskilling initiatives?

A. As mentioned previously, Family First will work both ends of the issue - starting by ensuring migration is well managed, and education institutions are providing the necessary skilled workers.

3. Natural Resources and Economic Policy

- Q. Does the government need to do a better job at capitalizing on our natural resources? And why don't we take more revenue in royalties and taxes when we are one of the largest gas exporters in the world, for example? We should be doing what Norway and Qatar do.

A. Absolutely. Australia is blessed with ample natural resources through coal and gas reserves, and we should be making better use of these resources to provide cheap and affordable electricity.

- Q. Qatar has zero income tax as they profit enough money from their natural resources.

A. The priority of Family First is to utilise natural resources and return to sensible energy policies which will reduce the cost of electricity. From there, the potential positive reforms due to reduced electricity prices can be assessed.

4. Representation and Competition

- Q. The Electorate of Barker is a big area with many different industries and businesses throughout the various regions with sometimes competing needs and

wants. How have you or how do you intend to make sure they are all heard and represented equally?

A. The electorate of Barker is diverse and complex! If elected, I would prioritise listening to businesses and industries to identify critical needs - and then work collaboratively to develop effective policies.

- Q. Government doesn't have a good record of backing winners. Will you get out of the way and just let business be business?

A. Family First advocates for reducing big government, cutting red tape and reducing government regulation. Businesses should be free to thrive without unnecessary government involvement.

- Q. Competition is critical to business efficiency. How will you strengthen and entrench competitive practices including, say, competition with arms of government such as councils?

A. Competition is essential to ensure equitable markets. Where possible, Family First will endeavour to reduce government regulation to provide a fair playing field for businesses.

5. Infrastructure

- Q. Australia ranks 58th in the world for internet speed. And we're a rich country! How will you increase our ranking?

A. Reducing government regulation and ensuring network upgrades can be rolled out with maximum efficiency.