

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**

Statement from Tony Pasin

Since being elected in 2013, I have delivered real outcomes making communities across the electorate even better places to live, work and raise a family.

I drive over 100,000 kms per year across Barker to ensure that I am Barker's voice in Canberra, not Canberra's voice in Barker. My focus is to ensure that the views of the diverse local communities are heard loud and clear in Parliament.

Despite inheriting a strong economy from the Coalition, in just three years the Albanese Labor Government has damaged the Australian economy and Australians have experienced the largest fall in living standards on record.

We are a nation of small and family businesses, with over 2.5 million small businesses employing almost half of Australia's workforce.

Small businesses keep our economy ticking but under Labor, they've been under real pressure.

In fact, there have been a record 27,000 business insolvencies since the Albanese Government was elected, including 4,000 hospitality businesses who have gone under and jobs in the hospitality industry fell by 165,000 last year alone.

Electricity prices for small businesses increased by up to 52 per cent in 2024, borrowing costs reached the highest levels in 16 years and persistent high inflation has resulted in an increased cost of doing business, impacting profit margins and investment.

Compounding this cost-of-doing-business-crisis is the cost-of-living crisis for households meaning people are spending less.

Small businesses are at breaking point.

A Dutton led Liberal Government will build a stronger economy by delivering a back-to-basics economic agenda, including lower, simpler and fairer taxes to boost economic growth.

Our plan will drive productivity growth and back small business, because what's good for small businesses is good for our local community.

We will:

- Deliver cheaper energy through our balanced energy plan including renewables, gas and zero-emissions nuclear technology, instead of Labor's reckless renewables only approach.
- Make it easier to start a business by providing tax relief for the first three years of operation. New businesses will be able to claim tax relief of up to 75% for their first \$100,000 of taxable income, as well as 50% of their second \$100,000.
- Lower taxes: to support investment, growth and new business creation.
- Make it easier for small businesses to get loans, funding and investment

- Increase the instant asset write-off to \$30,000 and make it permanent. This will provide confidence to invest.
- Make workplace rules fairer and give businesses the flexibility to grow and hire. The current system is too costly and too stressful.
- Invest over \$500 million to back small and medium businesses and builders to skill the next generation of Australian workers, providing small and medium businesses with \$12,000 to support the wages of eligible new apprentices and trainees taking up training in areas of skills shortage for the first two years of their training.
- Support local cafes, restaurants, and bars by ensuring small businesses with a turnover of up to \$10 million will be eligible for a capped tax deduction of \$20,000 for business-related meal and entertainment expenses – helping bring people together and support local jobs.

I strongly believe in the inalienable rights and freedoms of all peoples; working towards a lean government that minimises interference in our daily lives; and maximising individual and private sector initiative.

I'm also committed to always stand up to defend free speech, which is a fundamental principle in a democratic society.

A Dutton Led Liberal Government will back our small businesses and get Australia Back on Track.