

# QUARTERLY REPORT TO REGION

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA (RDA) SUNSHINE COAST



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## QUARTERLY REPORT TO REGION

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine Coast part of a national network of 55 committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the development of their region.

The **Quarterly Report to Region** provides an update on the latest regional trends and key activities and work undertaken by RDA Sunshine Coast.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Infrastructure Australia's listing of **the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade** as a Priority Project and subsequent funding announcements from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments were welcomed by RDA Sunshine Coast.

This is a critical piece of infrastructure for a region that is going to grow from a population of 366,000 to over half a million by 2036. RDA Sunshine Coast has been advocating with all levels of government for the rail duplication project to go ahead. Given there is still a funding shortfall of \$170 million, we will continue to work constructively to make sure this project becomes a reality.

*We will continue to work to make sure this project becomes a reality.*

### RDA SUNSHINE COAST COMMITTEE

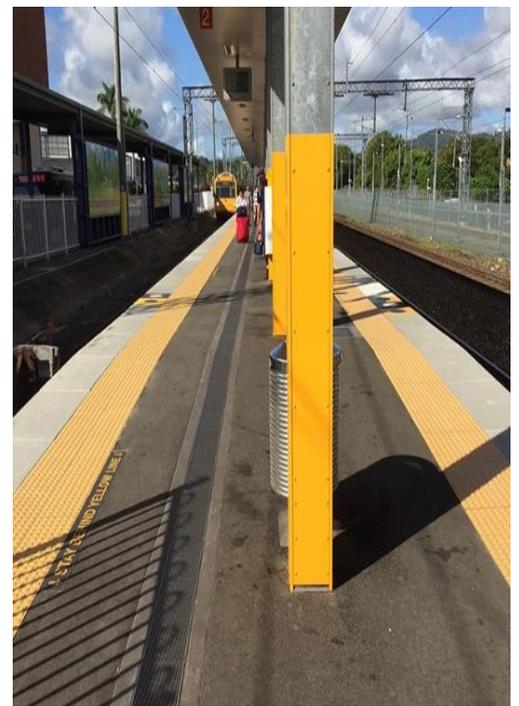
The first quarter of 2018 was a period of transition for RDA Sunshine Coast with CEO Darrell Edwards announcing his resignation from the position effective 30 March.

In March, former Brisbane City councillor **Carol Cashman** was appointed the new chair of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine Coast Committee. Ms Cashman is a consultant specialising in local government and community engagement. She served on the Brisbane City Council for 16 years where she was spokesman for planning and development.

The three-year **tenure of the previous committee** finished at the end of 2017 – Judi Lalor, and ex-officio members Michael Whittaker and Brett de Chastel remain on the committee with the new committee members to be in place for the June 2018 meeting.

### RDA SUNSHINE COAST CHARTER

RDA Sunshine Coast began operating effective 1 January under a **new charter** from the Commonwealth Government [[PDF: 455 KB](#)] that focuses on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages and drive economic growth.



## EMERGING ISSUES / TRENDS<sup>1</sup>



Over the last few years, the **unemployment rate** has been falling steadily on the Sunshine Coast and at the December Quarter 2017, it was 4.7%, below the Queensland average of 6.1%.

“ This headline figure is great news for the region however there does appear to be underlying structural issues including falling participation rates and comparatively high levels of part time work.

An estimated 18.4% of employed people on the Sunshine Coast **worked outside the region** according to the 2016 census data, this was down from 24.4% in 2011.

“ This highlights the importance of transport connections to the region and the need to generate additional local employment opportunities.



The **number of businesses** on the Sunshine Coast in 2016-17 was 37,294. Most of these are small businesses with 61.1% not employing any staff and a further 26.2% having between 1-4 employees.

“ Connecting businesses with each other and with emerging opportunities is critical to supporting a strong regional economy.



<sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise stated, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, accessed 11 June 2018.

## STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

RDA Sunshine Coast collaborates with a range of regional stakeholders. RDA Sunshine Coast also attends conferences, meetings, workshops and events to advocate on local issues and promote the region.

**RDA Sunshine Coast representatives attended approximately 80 stakeholder meetings, events, and workshops including:**

- SCRIPT Committee Meetings
- Sunshine Coast Business Awards meetings
- Skilling Queenslanders for Work
- Forum on the Regional Economic Development Strategy (Sunshine Coast Council)
- Defence Industry Seminar (Andrew Wallace MP)
- Digital Scorecard Workshop

**With stakeholders including:**

- Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance
- Sunshine Coast Chamber of Commerce
- Sunshine Coast Business Council
- Nambour Alliance
- Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils
- Federal and State Members
- TAFE QLD East Coast
- Trade & Investment Queensland (TIQ)
- Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and planning (DSDIP)
- Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI)



## COMMUNICATIONS

There was extensive social media communication on priority regional issues, RDA activities and events. [RDA Sunshine Coast](#), [Digital Sunshine Coast / SCRIPT](#) and [Digital Work Hub](#) websites were updated on an ongoing basis.

### NEWSLETTERS

Three RDA Sunshine Coast monthly [newsletters](#) were distributed in the January-March period:

- (January) Heading into 2018 with optimism
- (February) Connecting Business
- (March) Welcome

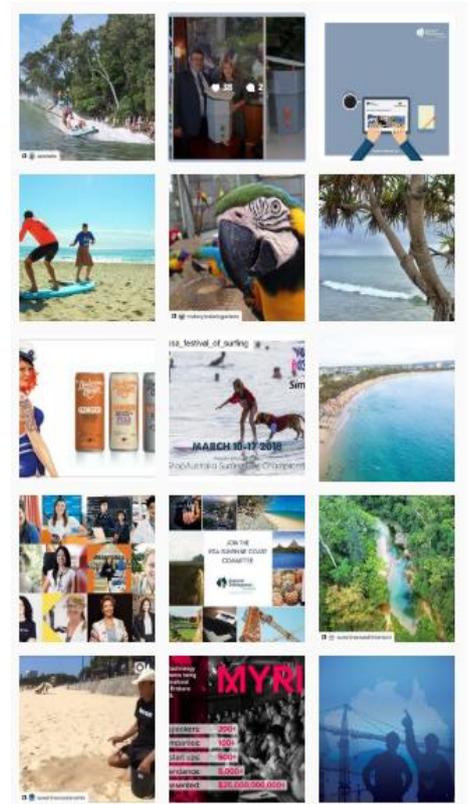
### IN THE MEDIA

[Opinion: RDA's focus is on a better future](#)  
[Sunshine Coast Daily, 7 January 2018]

[RDA boss eyes new projects](#)  
[Sunshine Coast Daily, 30 March 2018]

### MEDIA RELEASES

- [RDA Committee welcomes new Chair](#)
- [RDA Sunshine Coast welcomes new focus on region's rail duplication project](#)



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Regional Development  
Australia Sunshine Coast

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