



Regional
Development
Australia
SUNSHINE COAST INC

QUARTERLY REPORT TO REGION

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA (RDA) SUNSHINE COAST

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine Coast is 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.

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

Q3

JUL-SEP

2018

A Sunshine Coast that is innovative, dynamic,
connected and sustainable

HIGHLIGHTS

OVER \$3M AWARDED TO LOCAL PROJECTS IN BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND

Six Sunshine Coast projects have received a \$3,168,439 cash injection under the Federal Government’s highly competitive Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

Former Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government Dr John McVeigh announced the funding boost under Round Two of the BBRF.

RDA Sunshine Coast Chair Carol Cashman welcomed the Federal Government’s decision across the Infrastructure Projects and Community Investments streams.

“ RDA Sunshine Coast is excited to support projects that play such a crucial role in supporting and strengthening the Sunshine Coast community and we are delighted that these important local projects have been recognised and assisted by the BBRF. ”

- Carol Cashman

The program has invested \$641.6 million in 257 projects since 2017 and has created about 26,000 jobs throughout regional Australia.

BBRF ROUND THREE OPEN

Round Three of the BBRF is now open, with up to \$200m up for grabs to help local governments and not-for-profit organisations build the capacity of regional areas. The third funding round will focus on regional tourism.

Read more or contact [Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast](#) if you would like to discuss an application. Eligible businesses have until November 15 to apply. For more information, visit www.business.gov.au.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS STREAM

\$34,500	2019 Australian Body Art Festival – Blow Your Mind	Cooroy Chamber of Commerce
\$50,000		Nambour Alliance

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS STREAM

\$2,550,179	Final Stage 3 – Rufous Street Masterplan Development	Noosa Council
\$131,000	Caloundra Rugby Club Field Three Lighting Project	Caloundra Rugby Union Club
\$231,200	Memorial Hall Upgrade Project	Palmwoods Memorial Hall Association
\$256,060	Community group home residence construction	We Help Ourselves



HIGHLIGHTS



RDA NATIONAL FORUM IN CANBERRA

The RDA Sunshine Coast Chair Carol Cashman, Deputy Chair Jason Law and Director of Regional Development Phil Harman proudly advocated for Coast priorities at the RDA National Forum in Canberra from 15-17 August.

The forum's key message was that the Federal Government highly values the RDA Network. The need to collaborate across RDAs and all levels of government was also emphasised as well as "turning up the volume" on evidence-based advocacy.

The event also saw an update on the Export Hub funding program released last September, which provides matched funding up to \$1 million over four years for export clusters.

Rubbing shoulders: Former Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government Dr John McVeigh with RDA Sunshine Coast Chair Carol Cashman and Deputy Chair Jason Law.

TECHIES UNITE AT GOVHACK 2018

Up to 85 local digital creators, entrepreneurs and tech wizards converged at GovHack 2018, an annual open data competition proudly sponsored by RDA Sunshine Coast, held at both the University of the Sunshine Coast and Peregrin Digital Hub on 7-9 September.

A \$500 prize was up for grabs at each annual, free hack-a-thon competition, which aimed to uncover new digital products and services of benefit to the community. This saw the Peregrin Digital Hub focus on transport innovation. Winners will be announced shortly – stay tuned. This year's local events took place simultaneously in 24 locations across Australia and New Zealand.



STARTUP ONRAMP LAUNCHES ON SUNSHINE COAST

As a founding supporter of the Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Pipeline Team (SCRIPT), the RDA Sunshine Coast was thrilled to see its Startup Onramp program launched in the community last September. Startup Onramp is an innovative, 12-week training and mentoring program aimed at giving new and aspiring founders the skills, advice and networks they need to launch and grow a successful tech company.

Startup Onramp founder Colin Kinner said the program's core mission was to help people make the transition from employee to entrepreneur. It is also proudly supported by Advance Queensland.

HIGHLIGHTS

NAMBOUR TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

Reimagine Nambour is making headway. It is an economic transition strategy aimed at transforming the local economy while retaining Nambour's distinct cultural identity.

RDA Sunshine Coast is on the 13-person steering committee set up to oversee this project. This group – which includes local business and community leaders, as well as council, state and federal politicians – is in the final stages of selecting a consultant.

The consultant will be charged with unlocking Nambour's future economic potential and create a visionary action plan to transition the former sugar mill town into a modern, vibrant and sustainable economy. Visit www.reimaginenambour.com.au.

NEW BUSINESS PLAN IN MOTION FOR RDA SUNSHINE COAST

Last August, the RDA Sunshine Coast signed off on its 2018/19 Business Plan which has been developed based on these four, three-year overarching objectives:

1. Advocacy for improved transport: We will continue to work with all three levels of government to drive investment in improved transport infrastructure and smart-transport solutions.

2. Leveraging investment in the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion: The RDA is supporting the development of potential airport freight opportunities and export clusters at the Sunshine Coast Airport (*pictured right*) in partnership with the local Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN).

3. Supporting regional innovation and attraction of entrepreneurs to the coast including leveraging submarine cable: We will identify and communicate the regional benefits of the submarine cable and the economic opportunities that it provides and continue to promote the Coast as a destination for entrepreneurs (RDA in support).

SUNSHINE COAST BUSINESS AWARDS SOLD OUT

It's a sell-out! Tickets are now all gone for the prestigious and hotly contested 2018 Sunshine Coast Business Awards Gala at Novotel Twin Waters on 17 November.

As a big supporter of the event, RDA Sunshine Coast is pleased to see the awards so well-received in the community, with so many fantastic, local businesses achieving success. A record number of entries were received this year, with finalists announced last September, and winners unveiled at the gala.

RDA Sunshine Coast Chair Carol Cashman said the awards played a vital role in recognising business excellence in the community. "Congratulations to this year's finalists," she said, "They range from agriculture through to building and construction and clean technology."



The ripple effect: The RDA Sunshine Coast is actively leveraging investment into the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion.

HIGHLIGHTS

RDA Sunshine Coast also has a leadership role in the Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Pipeline Team (#SCRIPT) project. RDA Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Council and Noosa Council are lead collaborators in this initiative that aims to attract, connect and support innovators across the Sunshine Coast region. (RDA in lead)

4. Connecting businesses to opportunities: To maximise government grants in the region, RDA Sunshine Coast is developing a grant-writing program (*pictured right*). This will better connect local businesses to a grant-writing service, available grants and grant writing tips. This move is in recognition of the fact that Sunshine Coast small businesses, start-ups and not-for-profit organisations often do not have the time, funds and/or access to the skills, knowledge and resources required to submit competitive grant and funding applications.



EMERGING ISSUES/TRENDS

LATEST EMPLOYMENT FIGURES REGIONAL

The Sunshine Coast's recent employment growth rate was 5.3 per cent, well above the state average of 3.6 per cent. This saw an additional 9,000 people in work on the Coast over the past year. Our labour force also grew by 12,500 (7 per cent) – which has seen the Coast creating significant numbers of jobs, but still behind the demands of an increasing population.

The Coast's work participation rate at 62.2 per cent is also 2.5 per cent stronger than last year. In addition, it has the highest number of vacancy posts across Queensland on the three major job boards in September for the last 15 months. This indicates there are jobs in the market and people are filling them. Visit: <http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/GainInsights/VacancyReport>.



The increase in youth unemployment is mainly because our 15+ population increased by 7,900 (2.7 per cent) when compared to the same time last year.

COMMUNICATIONS



NEWSLETTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Two RDA Sunshine Coast monthly newsletters were distributed in the July-September period:

- (July) Thriving Regional Centres
- (August) Attracting High Value Jobs

In addition, the RDA Sunshine Coast has remained active across all its popular social media platforms. One of our most-liked, recent posts was a scenic Instagram shot of a spectacular Mt Beerwah sunset in the Glasshouse Mountains from @travel_moments_. (pictured left).

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