

December 2018 Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Building a better digital future

As this year draws to a close, we can pause and reflect on the significant and exciting developments and digital innovation underway on the Sunshine Coast.

With an additional 191,600 people expected to call the Sunshine Coast home by 2041, our huge regional growth has hastened much great progress.

Momentum and awareness of our new Maroochydore City Centre is growing, with the new centrally located commercial centre expected to generate thousands of jobs.

As Sunshine Coast Council strives to shape the region as Australia's leading healthy, smart and creative destination – we eagerly await some incredibly exciting infrastructure projects currently underway.

Hot-on-the-heels of the recent opening of the new



Sunshine Coast University Hospital, comes the Bruce Highway upgrade, Sunshine Coast Airport's expansion and the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Submarine Cable.

Operational in the first half of 2020, the cable will be Australia's fastest data connection to Asia. In addition, it will be the second fastest to the US and the only other cable connection on the east-coast outside of Sydney.

Australian-based global leader in critical infrastructure, Vertiv, has been awarded the contract to design and construct the \$6.6 million Sunshine Coast International Broadband Submarine Cable landing station at Maroochydore.

In addition, the cable project has attracted a major new player to the Sunshine Coast in the form of global accelerator program, SunRamp Australasia. It is expected to launch an initiative at Maroochydore in early 2019 to attract the next generation of innovators to the Sunshine Coast.

And the Sunshine Coast's digital innovation doesn't stop there - the region was also recently named on the Smart21 Community list for 2019 – the fifth time in six years it has been recognised as a global leader in smart technology and innovation.

What an exciting time to live and work on the Sunshine Coast!

From the RDA Sunshine Coast team, we wish you a very merry and safe Christmas and a happy new year!

Carol Cashman

Chair

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine Coast



Plans unveiled for \$6.6 million submarine cable station

Vertiv has been awarded the contract to build the new submarine cable landing station.

[Read More](#)



Coast named on the Smart21 Community list for 2019

The region has been recognised as a global leader in smart tech and innovation.

[Read More](#)



Committee member profile: Judi Lalor

Each month, we will profile one of the RDA Sunshine Coast Committee members. Read more to find out what they see as the biggest opportunities on the Coast, why they joined the committee, the most interesting thing about them that we won't learn from their resume - and more!

[Read More](#)



Smart-tech homes of future for new Maroochydore CBD

The new "small office home office (SOHO) townhomes" which double as businesses.

[Read more](#)



Submarine cable attracts global accelerator program

SunRamp Australasia will run a Maroochydore initiative to attract innovators to the Coast.

[Read more](#)

GRANTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Business Development Fund grant applications open

Sunshine Coast businesses can apply for a grant valued at between \$125,000 and \$2.5 million in the Business Development Fund.

The program focuses on the growth of innovative Queensland businesses, particularly in the emerging industries of tomorrow. It will create high value, knowledge-based and skilled jobs now and into the future. Visit <https://advance.qld.gov.au>.

If you need grant support, phone RDA Sunshine Coast Research and Grants Coordinator Sarah Wetton on 0419 564 772.

#SCRIPT Advance Regional Innovation Program (ARIP)

The [Advance Regional Innovation Program](#) (ARIP) will provide \$1 million over 3 years to develop innovation and entrepreneurial activities across the Sunshine Coast region.

Visit our [Grants & Funding](#) page for more grants and funding opportunities



Digital Marketing by the Numbers Workshop

Regional Development Australia is delivering the ASBAS Digital Solutions program, Digital Marketing by the Numbers, with Jason Button. It is aimed at helping small businesses learn how to use digital marketing for growth.

Friday, December 7 from 9-11am

Venue 114, 114 Sportmans Parade, Bokarina
(Formerly the Kawana Community Centre)

[Details](#)

Grow Your Business with Video and Social Media

Girl Director Academy is holding this half-day workshop to help business owners learn all there is to know about using videos and social

Sunday, December 16 from 9am-1pm

Buderim Tavern, 81 Burnett St, Buderim

[Details](#)

media to market their companies.



Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network Christmas Champagne Celebration

Enjoy a special champagne breakfast, a Christmas market, bubbles, baubles and a musical performance.

Thursday, December 13 from 6.30-9am
The Events Centre, 20 Minchinton St,
Caloundra

[Details](#)

Carols by the Beach

This year's entertainment includes fair rides, water games, stage shows, local singers, face painting, a visit from Santa himself and more.

Sunday, December 16 from 4-7.30pm
Kawana Waters SLSC, 99 Pacific Boulevard,
Buddina

[Details](#)



Have your say!

We welcome your feedback about any of our projects or news items featured in our [monthly newsletter](#).

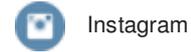
If you have regional news stories or economic development events relevant for the Sunshine Coast community (or even awesome images of this great place we call home that you

Contact us

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would like to share!) - please contact us at
media@rdasunshinecoast.org.au

Editorial deadline is by the 28th of each month.



Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast is an Australian Government initiative that works in collaboration with the Queensland Government, Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils to support economic development within the region.



An Australian Government Initiative

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