

February 2019 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



Message from the CEO

Strengthening the region

As we welcome February already, it is timely to recap on RDA Sunshine Coast's four key focus areas for 2019.

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 in partnership with the local Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN).

3. Supporting regional innovation, including leveraging the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Submarine Cable: We will identify and



communicate the regional benefits of the submarine cable and the economic opportunities that it provides, while continuing to promote the Coast as a destination for entrepreneurs.

4. Connecting businesses to opportunities: To maximise government grants in the region by better connecting local businesses to grant-writing services, available grants and grant writing tips.

We will also advocate for, lead, or participate in a number of key projects in the region, including:

- **The Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Pipeline Team (#SCRIPT):** SCRIPT is a collaboration of local entrepreneurs, businesses, government stakeholders and community members dedicated to growing innovation and business capacity on the Sunshine Coast.
- **Reimagine Nambour:** This is an economic transition strategy which aims to unite government, community and business leaders around an action plan to transform the local economy while retaining Nambour's distinct cultural identity.
- **The Ripple Effect:** This project aims to ensure local SMEs are aware of opportunities generated by "game changer" projects across the Sunshine Coast region - and to educate local businesses that they do not need to be in a directly-related industry to benefit.
- **Cut Flowers (intensive horticulture):** A coordinated regional-scale approach is needed to fully scope and consider the potential for developing the cut flower and intensive horticulture market on the Sunshine Coast. This should include required infrastructure and capacity/employment needs and links to freight/export associated with the airport expansion and major rail projects currently underway.
- **International Broadband Submarine Cable:** The Sunshine Coast Council is facilitating a new International Broadband Submarine Cable landing at Maroochydore by 2020, which will stimulate local business, generate new investment and improve

telecommunications capacity to Australia's east coast.

- **Key transport projects:** This is a series of forums and opportunities for the RDA Sunshine Coast to advocate for existing and newly created local transport initiatives such as Bruce Highway upgrade, North Coast Connect project and the recently published Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) Integrated Transport Strategy.

- **Sunshine Coast Airport expansion:** RDA Sunshine Coast will connect the business community with opportunities arising from the airport expansion – for example, the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) will explore food and agribusiness export openings.

- **Grants support:** RDA Sunshine Coast is actively connecting both the business and community sectors with government grants, culminating in a four-part Grants for Growth event workshop series, with event one at the Maroochy RSL on Thursday, February 7. Please promote the event through your networks if you haven't already, via:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/top-3-tips-on-how-to-prepare-a-competitive-cost-benefit-analysis-tickets-54900537987>.

There's a lot of exciting and important work to be done in our amazing region. I look forward to your valued input and support.

Paul Fisher

Chief Executive Officer

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine Coast



RDA Sunshine Coast launches Grants for Growth series

Up to 70 people attended RDA Sunshine Coast's highly successful event, Grants for Growth: Top 3 Tips on How to Prepare a Competitive Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). Held at the Maroochy RSL on Thursday, February 7, it marked our first free event in our Grants for Growth series for 2019. The exciting and memorable event connected local businesses and community groups with competitive government grant and funding opportunities and revealed insights into what makes a great government grant.

RDA Sunshine Coast CEO Paul Fisher (second from left) led an expert panel including (from left) Rob Hall, Lead Economic Consultant, .id - the population experts; Robyn Mercer, Principal Consultant, White and Grey Consulting; Kerrieanne Haggie, Industry Advancement Leader, Tourism, Sport and Leisure, Economic Development and Major Projects at Sunshine Coast Council; and Dr Latiffa Ling, Director, Commercial Evaluation and Management | Queensland Government Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (not pictured).

[Read more](#)



Save Bloomhill Campaign gathers momentum

Bloomhill Cancer Care urgently needs 3000 petition signatures amid its battle for survival.

[Read More](#)



Noosa Council partners with local Indigenous not-for-profit

Noosa Council's Peregrin Digital Hub ramps up support for local tech talent and innovators.

[Read More](#)



Sunshine Coast success story: Epicquest Platform Pty Ltd

Meet Billy Bowyer and Scotty Thomas, two of the four co-founders behind the Ocean

meet Billy Bowyer and Scotty Thomas – two of the four co-founders behind the Ocean St, Maroochydore-based marketing and messaging software platform set to go international in 2019.

[Read more](#)



High-profile Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2019 up for grabs

Contemporary artists can now enter one of the country's most prestigious art prizes.

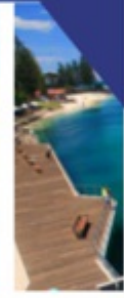
[Read more](#)



Coast's first creative incubator set to launch

Local creatives are being sought for The Refinery at the Maroochydore City Centre.

[Read more](#)



Committee member profile: Leanne Layfield

Meet Leanne Layfield - one of our esteemed RDA Sunshine Coast Committee members. Find out what she sees as the biggest opportunities on the Coast, why she joined the committee, the most interesting thing about her that we won't learn from her résumé - and more!

Read More

GRANTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Gambling Community Benefit Fund round 100 now open

Queensland not-for-profits can apply for grants from \$500 to \$35,000 through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF). This fund is Queensland's largest one-off grants program, distributing approximately \$55 million per year. It allocates grants to not-for-profit community groups, to enhance their capacity to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities. Applications close February 28 - visit <https://www.gamblingcommunityfund.qld.gov.au/#/welcome> and <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/corporate/initiatives/community-grants>.

Empowering Business to Go Digital program raises tech awareness

Need help with your tech? The Empowering Business to Go Digital program will provide a single grant of up to \$3 million in matched funding to support a non-government organisation to build and enhance its small business digital capability. The program will run over two years from 2018-19 to 2019-20. Applications close February 3 at 5pm. Visit <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/empowering-business-to-go-digital>.

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



Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance Business Mentoring Program

Learn how to grow your small and medium Sunshine Coast business to its

Submit Your Expression of Interest now.

[Details](#)

true potential.

LinkedIn - Getting Connected and Benefits for Business

Regional Development Brisbane and RDA Sunshine Coast are delivering this ASBAS Digital Solutions program, aimed at helping small businesses learn how to use LinkedIn for their growth and development.

Friday, February 15 from 10am-noon.
Venue 114, 114 Sportsmans Pde,
Bokarina.

[Details](#)

Business Leaders' Workshop

Kick-start your year with the University of the Sunshine Coast Business School's interactive workshop for business professionals.

Wednesday, February 20 from noon-5pm
USC Sunshine Coast, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs.

[Details](#)



The 4556 Chamber Buderim Business Soiree

A free networking event.

Wednesday, February 20 from 5.30-7.30pm
34 Gloucester Rd, Buderim.

[Details](#)

Noosa Chamber of Commerce, supported by Noosa Council, is hosting Surviving the AI Apocalypse: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Machine Learning

An evening to demystify AI.

Thursday, February 21 from 5.30-7.30pm
Noosa Boardroom, CA 8-10, Noosa Civic Commercial, 28 Eenie Creek Rd, Noosaville.

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

Our editorial deadline is by the 28th of each month.

Contact us

RDA Sunshine Coast
17 Ocean Street
Maroochydore Q 4558

-  Facebook
-  Twitter
-  Instagram
-  LinkedIn
-  Website

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



An Australian Government Initiative

© 2019 RDA Sunshine Coast, All Rights Reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#)

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

Powered by

 **epicue**