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## Quarterly Report to the Region, Q1: January- March, 2019

**Working towards a Sunshine Coast that is  
innovative, dynamic, connected and sustainable.**

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine Coast is part of a national network of 52 committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the development and growth of their regions.

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

### Message from the CEO

#### Making a difference in the community

I am proud of the many projects that RDA Sunshine Coast (RDASC) has led, supported and advocated for in the first

quarter of 2019; we are actively working on and promoting important programs and events which have lasting benefits for the Sunshine Coast community.

In this *Quarterly Report to the Region, Q1: January-March, 2019*, you'll see that RDASC strongly backed the SEQ City Deal, which will see the three levels of government unite to deliver a \$58 billion boost to the region's economy over the next 25 years, according to KPMG.

We also provided significant grant assistance to community groups who successfully applied for a combined \$2.72 million in Federal Government funding in round three of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

We held our first event for the year, which connected local businesses and community groups with competitive government grant and funding opportunities - and we partnered with prominent corporate events such as the Chamber Alliance's *Powering Business to the World* and the SunCoast Angels launch - both of which were geared at boosting investment and innovation in the region.

This quarter also saw us leverage our national network of 52 RDAs, 12 of which are here in Queensland, through our increased collaboration with seven other RDAs throughout Southeast Queensland and northern New South Wales at a joint gathering.

This gave us the opportunity to share and apply key regional development principles, activities and data to our own key focus areas of integrated transport and promoting opportunities from the Sunshine Coast Airport



expansion and the International Submarine Broadband Cable.

There's never been a better or more exciting time to be based on the Sunshine Coast, with the upcoming International Broadband Submarine Cable at Maroochydore in 2020 really putting us on the map with Australia's fastest telecommunications connection to Asia and the second fastest to the United States.

At the RDA, it's our role to identify local priorities, align resources, engage stakeholders and promote solutions to strengthen and build the region. And we feel honoured to be performing such meaningful work for the future of the Coast, which has such an exciting and ambitious future.

There is still much work needed to be done. Thank you for your valued input and support as we work towards change, innovation and improvement.

### **Paul Fisher**

Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Development Australia (RDA)  
Sunshine Coast



**RDA Sunshine Coast**



**Local businesses**

## hosts first free grant event for 2019

Seventy people attended our event, Grants for Growth: Top 3 Tips on How to Prepare a Competitive Cost Benefit Analysis.

[Read More](#)

## converge at Chamber Alliance event

An 120-strong crowd turned out in force for an expert panel discussion on digital innovation at the Powering Business to the World function.

[Read More](#)

## #SCRIPT Update

The Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Program (#SCRIPT) is continuing to fuel the culture of innovation in the region by investing in innovative programs which make a difference to our community. Find out about its latest and greatest projects here.

[Read more](#)

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#SCRIPT



## Coast among Top7 Intelligent Communities in the world

The Sunshine Coast has been named one of the Top7 Intelligent Communities of 2019 - the only Australian city honoured at this elite level.



## RDA Sunshine Coast welcomes SEQ City Deal

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has pledged that his government will support the SEQ City Deal, the biggest City Deal in the country.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

## SunCoast Angels launch

RDA Sunshine Coast is proudly partnering with SunCoast Angels to support emerging local businesses, with the group attracting 50 movers and shakers to its recent launch at Circa Rooftop Bar, Maroochydore.



[Read more](#)



## RDA Sunshine Coast helps foster a culture of innovation

Up to \$10,000 is up for grabs in the Mayor's Telstra Innovation Awards 2019, proudly supported by RDA Sunshine Coast.

[Read more](#)



## The Coast's first creative incubator launches

Training platform, The Refinery, has opened at the Maroochydore City Centre to help creatives launch sustainable businesses.

[Read more](#)

## Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club's new \$2.5 million outlook

Sunshine Beach SLSC is the big local

winner in round three of the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund. Local charity STEPS Group Australia and community group Tourism Noosa also received grants.

[Read more](#)



## **RDA SEQ and Northern NSW Workshop urges collaboration**

Former professional surf lifesaver, Trevor Hendy, gave an inspiring presentation to 11 RDA Directors/CEOs at a Southport event.

[Read more](#)



## **Meet the Makers 2019 event packed to the rafters**

The Big Pineapple was the setting for FAN's highly successful Meet the Makers 2019, proudly supported by RDA Sunshine Coast.

[Read more](#)



## **Innovation Masterclass boosts local businesses**



## **Noosa Council launches new Environment Grants**

Noosa and Sunshine Coast council area businesses are being urged to attend an innovation program at Peregrin Digital Hub.

[Read more](#)

## Program

Not-for-profit groups have until April to apply for Noosa Council's new round of environment, arts and community grants.

[Read more](#)

## Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport visit

RDA Sunshine Coast embarked on a fact-finding mission to Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport - a pioneer in regional aviation - in the wake of the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion Project.



[Read more](#)



## Media and Communications

If you have regional news or business stories, or an event happening on the Sunshine Coast, contact us at [media@rdasunshinecoast.org.au](mailto:media@rdasunshinecoast.org.au).

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## Contact us

RDA Sunshine Coast  
17 Ocean Street  
Maroochydore Q 4558

07 5479 6554

Email:  
[info@rdasunshinecoast.org.au](mailto:info@rdasunshinecoast.org.au).

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



**An Australian Government Initiative**

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