



Brisbane Linkages

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RDA WORKFORCE STUDY PREDICTS Skilled jobs boom for Brisbane

A new RDA Brisbane report predicts that an extra 343,000 positions will be created in the greater Brisbane labour market by 2021, with professionals and managers accounting for nearly 200,000 of these – but warns that without action, demand for highly skilled workers is likely to outstrip supply.

The report, *Skill Shortages in the Greater Brisbane Labour Market 2012–2021*, completed this month, was commissioned by the RDA to help identify the region's future skill needs, and recommend strategies to address expected skill shortages.

The study predicts that an extra 136,000 professionals and 62,000 managers will be required to meet demand to 2021, with Brisbane continuing to develop as a professional service hub for the rest of Queensland, supporting strong growth in the resources sector. Technicians and trades workers will also be highly sought after, with 46,000 new positions created. But in a "business as usual" scenario (with no remedial action), there is likely to be a shortfall of professionals and managers (-77,000), and an oversupply of lower skilled workers in areas such as community and personal services, sales, administration, labouring and processing.

Overall, labour force needs are expected to rise an average of 2.9% per annum over the period 2012–2021. By industry division, greatest jobs growth will be in Health Care and Social Assistance (58,000), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (52,000) and Construction (43,000).

The report makes a number of policy recommendations to help cope with the expected structural change, including moves to retain skilled workers in the workforce (particularly in health care), encourage skilled migration and retrain workers in non-performing industries.

The study's development was supported by Brisbane City Council and Brisbane Marketing, and will assist in the formulation of their new Brisbane Economic Development Plan. RDA Brisbane will also work with a range of government, industry and education stakeholders to help develop strategies and programs to support the predicted jobs boom. Keep an eye on this newsletter or our website at www.rdabrisbane.org.au for further updates.

RDA Regional Roadmap Update sets strategic agenda for next 12 months

RDA Brisbane has released an update of its 2010–2011 Regional Roadmap, a strategic document which sets out an economic, environmental and social vision for the Brisbane region, and articulates the RDA's role in helping to realise the city's potential.

The 2011–2012 update, completed last month, lays out a clearly defined program of objectives and actions for the RDA to undertake over the next 12 months in the priority areas of Transport, Future Workforce, Liveability, Emerging Enterprise & Innovation and Carbon.

As well as providing direction for the activities of the RDA Committee and staff, the new Roadmap will be an important reference point for organisations applying to the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF), a competitive Australian Government grants program

While these priority areas remain relevant to Brisbane's strategic needs, the related initiatives and actions have been comprehensively reviewed in the light of changes in the economic, social and policy environments since the Roadmap was completed.



Photo courtesy of Brisbane Marketing

The update was made possible by input from more than 90 government, industry, education and community stakeholders at a major forum held in June. Participants examined the key themes and strategies in detail, offering a rich range of new perspectives, regional intelligence and project ideas. Updated socio-economic indicators and the current policy landscape across all levels of government (this includes an increased focus on the digital economy, regionalisation and growth management, local workforce development, flood recovery and reconstruction, productivity enhancement and low-emissions technology research & development) were also taken in account in revising the document.

Our Mission

RDA Brisbane's Mission is to carry out independent and transparent engagement that promotes partnerships across all sectors of the community and all levels of government to develop Brisbane's economic, social and environmental prosperity. We will address the identified regional priorities of:

- TRANSPORT
- FUTURE WORKFORCE
- LIVEABILITY
- EMERGING ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION
- CARBON

providing \$1 billion in infrastructure funding for the nation's regions over the next five years. Applications for projects in the Brisbane region need to align with one or more of the Roadmap's priority areas, and must have the Committee's endorsement in order to be eligible for funding. The program is open to local government and not-for-profit community organisations, with all final funding decisions made by the Australian Government.

Successful Round One RDAF applications were announced in September by the Minister for Regional Australia Simon Crean, with nearly \$150 million allocated to 35 "shovel-ready" projects nationwide. These included community buildings, cultural

and tourist projects, training centres and regional airport upgrades. Round Two of the RDAF is expected to open in November. **To download the Regional Roadmap Update or read more about the RDAF, please go to www.rdabrisbane.org.au**





Ross Naidoo from the DEEDI Food Pilot Plant (left) with SEQ RDA Executive Officers: Margaret Blade (Brisbane), Scott Windus (Gold Coast), Mark McConnell (Ipswich & West Moreton) and Andrew Quain (Moreton Bay).

RDA's tour research precinct

South-East Queensland RDA Executive Officers recently toured the Queensland Government's Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains – the highlight of a networking meeting hosted by RDA Brisbane at the venue.

The \$100 million precinct is designed to provide an environment that fosters collaboration between researchers working in the areas of biosecurity, healthcare, food safety and food technology. The precinct hosts 190 scientists from the Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation (DEEDI), CSIRO and the University of Queensland. For business and industry, the scientists can provide advice and help develop products to meet industry and market needs, lowering the risk for investment in full production. They can deliver research, process development and trials, and products for market evaluation. For further info, contact Dr Craig Davis on (07) 32766008 or email craig.davis@deedi.qld.gov.au or visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au/food

SEQ RDA Executive Officers meet regularly to work on cross-regional initiatives and share information. State and federal government departmental representatives also attend.

Flood network launch in Nov

RDA Brisbane will host the launch of a new alliance of government agencies and community-based organisations providing services and resilience strategies to flood-affected or vulnerable Brisbane businesses.

A concept developed by the RDA in conjunction with the Business Enterprise Centre Brisbane Metro (BEC), the **Small Business Resilience Stakeholder Network** will enhance the business recovery process through collaboration, capacity building and a shared community of knowledge. The event, planned for November, will also launch the operations of the BEC Brisbane Metro. Other agencies involved include Volunteering Queensland, the Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Brisbane Marketing, Brisbane City Council, Centrelink and local Chambers of Commerce.

For further details on the network, contact RDA Brisbane Executive Officer Margaret Blade on (07) 3235 4874 or margaret.blade@rdabrisbane.org.au



Role for RDAs in metro planning & policy

The potential contribution of RDAs to the national metropolitan planning reform agenda and new urban policy for Australian cities was explored at a Metro RDA Forum held in Brisbane on August 11.

The event included presentations on the COAG (Council of Australian Governments) Capital Cities Agenda and the Australian Government's new National Urban Policy, administered under the Major Cities Unit.

The COAG Capital Cities Agenda is a national objective and nine criteria to ensure Australian cities are globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable, socially inclusive and well-placed to meet future challenges and growth. By 1 January 2012, States and territories have agreed to have plans in place that meet the criteria.

Our Cities, Our Future - A National Urban Policy for a productive, sustainable and liveable future builds on the work of the COAG Reform Council and recognises the critical roles that state, territory and local governments, the private sector and individuals play in planning, managing and investing in cities. It identifies a number of key focus areas including diversity of lifestyle choices, improved accessibility and affordability, and less carbon dependent ways of living.

This includes enabling people – our human capital – to participate fully in society through education and training and matching people to jobs; by facilitating

an adequate supply of appropriate housing; by lessening dependency on private motor vehicle use and carbon fuels; and by re-thinking the way cities and communities are planned.

The Metro RDA Forum provided an opportunity for RDAs to discuss this more collaborative approach to metropolitan planning, and how to integrate it into their regional planning processes. Areas for consideration included: consultation and engagement with key stakeholders, and sectors of the community not previously given a significant voice; championing particular issues; and making inroads in the social/cultural/ecological aspects of the



agenda. It is expected that key issues and opportunities will be incorporated into future versions of RDA Regional Roadmaps.

RDA Brisbane's own experience in collaborating effectively across all sectors and levels of government to respond to existing and future needs was the subject of a successful "metro" RDA case study at the forum.

More info on COAG reforms can be found at www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au, while info on urban policy can be found at www.infrastructure.gov.au under Infrastructure - Major Cities Unit.

Expressions of Interests for positions on RDA Queensland Committees extended to October 14



Are you interested in joining the RDA Brisbane Committee?

The Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government is currently calling for Expressions of Interest for positions on Queensland RDA Committees. They are seeking community-minded individuals with vision and drive, who are able to represent the broad interests of their region, understand local challenges and achieve results. RDA Brisbane's volunteer Committee – drawn from local government, education, community and the private sector – helps identify opportunities, challenges and priorities for action in the Brisbane region. The Committee also builds relationships across all sectors and levels of government to further those priorities, sharing a common vision for the city's economic vibrancy, high quality of life and sustainability.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) from people of all backgrounds are welcome. Women, people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with diverse cultural backgrounds and people from across every age group are encouraged to submit an EOI. All EOIs will be considered against the skills and expertise needed by the RDA Committee. Terms of appointments are generally made for up to four years.

Further information on the RDA network, the EOI Handbook and an EOI form are available from www.rda.gov.au Expressions of Interest for positions on the RDA Brisbane Committee should be submitted by Friday 14 October 2011. If you require additional information, please contact 1800 505 938 or email rdaEOI@regional.gov.au



Have your say on constitutional recognition of local government

All Australians are invited to have their say on whether local government should be recognised in the constitution.

The Australian Government has announced the establishment of an independent Expert Panel on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, following an earlier commitment to hold a referendum on the issue during the current Parliament or at the next election.

The panel Chair, the Hon James Spigelman AC QC, is inviting submissions from the public so the panel can gauge the level of support for constitutional recognition, and the various forms that such recognition could take.

A Discussion Paper is available online at www.localgovrecognition.gov.au to promote debate and highlight a number of principal issues and considerations.

Written submissions close on Monday 4 November 2011.

Brisbane City Council News

RDA MEETS WITH COUNCIL CIVIC CABINET

Brisbane City Council held a Civic Cabinet Luncheon for RDA Brisbane on August 8, providing an opportunity to discuss current and future joint initiatives, and further strengthen the RDA's close working relationship with Council staff and elected representatives. The RDA Brisbane Committee members and Executive Officer met with the Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, Council CEO Colin Jensen and Council Chairmen.

FORUMS TO CONSULT WITH LOCAL BUSINESS

Brisbane City Council and its economic development agency Brisbane Marketing are consulting with local businesses through a series of industry engagement forums, to find ways to support businesses, grow the economy and create jobs.

The forums, headed by Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and Ian Klug, Chairman of the recently formed Economic Development Steering Committee, are an ideal way for Brisbane businesses to work strategically with local government, and help identify initiatives and actions that Brisbane City Council and Brisbane Marketing can implement to deliver on Council's vision for a prosperous, inclusive, sustainable, friendly and globally competitive city.

If you are interested in attending one of the forums, which will be held on October 11, October 20 and November 3, contact Jaclyn McLendon via email at jmclendon@brisbanemarketing.com.au Please note invitations will be issued on a first-in basis. For further information please contact Brisbane Marketing on (07) 3006 6200.

Council & RDA Committee farewell David Jackson

David Jackson, Manager of Economic Development at the Brisbane City Council since 2006, has retired, also stepping down from his position as a local government representative on the RDA Brisbane Committee at the same time.

David's involvement with the Brisbane City Council spans a 30 year period, punctuated by some stints in the private sector. A strategist far ahead of his time, David was part of the team which developed the Council's first economic development plan for Brisbane in 1986, under the then Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson, and was later Project Manager for the 1999 and 2006-2011 plans.

In 2000, he was the Brisbane City Council representative on a joint Council-State Capital City Policy Subcommittee which prepared a groundbreaking telecommunications infrastructure strategy, a recommendation from the 1999 Economic Development Plan. The subcommittee identified the need for a broadband network in Brisbane, and this far-sighted idea was developed into "Project Vista" broadband for the city in 2002 - a precursor to the NBN concept and highly influential at a state and federal government policy level.

David also initiated the first long-term infrastructure plan for Brisbane, recognising the huge impact that infrastructure provision has, not just on meeting current needs, but on the city's capacity for long-term economic development. A significant document, first published in 2007 and recently revised to

2011-2031, the plan provides a reference point for other levels of government and the private sector, to encourage a coordinated approach to infrastructure delivery and shared opportunities.

With his economic expertise, unrivalled local knowledge and passion for a better Brisbane, David has been a valued member of the RDA Committee since its inception in late 2009. Among his contributions, he guided the development of the inaugural RDA Brisbane Regional Roadmap and the Brisbane labour force capability assessment report (see story page 1).

A keen artist and choir participant, David is looking forward to devoting more time to creative pursuits in his retirement. The RDA Brisbane Committee wishes him all the very best.



David accepting an appreciation award from the RDA at his last meeting

New Australian Government funding programs

EMERGING RENEWABLES PROGRAM



The Australian Government is calling for applications for the new \$126 million Emerging Renewables Program. Administered by the Australian Centre for Renewable Energy

(ACRE), the program will provide support for the development of renewable energy and enabling technologies in Australia across the innovation chain. Grants will be merit-based, and made in two funding categories:

- 1) **ACRE Projects** - for renewable energy and enabling technologies and products as they move through the technology innovation chain, and to lower the cost of renewable energy in Australia.
- 2) **ACRE Measures** - for renewable energy industry capacity building and skills development, or preparatory activity for ACRE Projects.

For more information go to www.ret.gov.au and type the program name into the search box or call the Emerging Renewables team on (02) 6243 7054.

DIGITAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Two new programs to help communities make the most of the National Broadband Network (NBN) have opened for applications under the Australian Government's Digital Communities Initiative.



The **Digital Hubs** program, aimed at householders, and the **Digital Enterprise** program, aimed at small to medium-sized

businesses and not-for-profit groups, will enable participants to experience NBN services and technology, and access education and training to help them fully participate in the digital economy. The program is open to the first 40 communities to benefit from the NBN. Guidelines are available at www.dbcde.gov.au/digitalhubs and www.dbcde.gov.au/digitalenterprise

Round One applications close this month, however there will be a further funding round for Stage 2 NBN rollout sites (which includes the Aspley area) early in 2012.

