



Regional Development Australia  
BRISBANE

# Brisbane Linkages

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QUEENSLAND

## WATTS SAVERS

### Places still available for RDA's FREE workshop on saving energy

Brisbane small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits can enjoy a free breakfast while they learn about simple strategies to save energy and money, with places still available for the Watt Savers Energy Insights Workshop on October 29.

Hosted by RDA Brisbane, the workshop will be facilitated by experts from a range of industries with real world examples to share.

You'll come away with insights, ideas, contacts and practical strategies to help you build an energy management plan for your enterprise - small or large - and reduce your power bills in a sustainable way.

The workshop will be held at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Chermside, 7.00am for 7.30am to 9.30am, on Tuesday 29 October.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

The Watt Savers program is an initiative of CitySmart, Brisbane City Council's sustainability agency. Join the online [Watt Savers program](#) for access to a wealth of resources and tips to help you start saving energy today.



## New Department and Minister for RDAs

The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Nationals, The Hon Warren Truss MP, will oversee the RDA network as the new Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Minister Truss is not new to the role, having been the Minister for Transport and Regional Services for a period during the Howard Government, overseeing the ACC network, a predecessor to RDAs.

One of his first acts as Minister has been to announce the fast tracking of work on the Gateway Upgrade North project, with preferred plans now available online and early works due to begin in late 2014. The upgrade will include widening 11.3 kilometres of roadway from four to six lanes

between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge, upgrading the Nudgee Interchange and increasing the Deagon Deviation to two lanes in each direction.

For more details [CLICK HERE](#).



**CLICK!** digital expo

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## Early bird discounts for sponsors and exhibitors CLOSE 31 OCTOBER

Is your business a provider of online or technology-based products or services?

Time is running out to secure your early bird discount when you sign up as a sponsor or exhibitor for RDA Brisbane's **CLICK! Digital Expo** (13-14 March 2014 at Brisbane City Hall).

CLICK! is a proven, premier event to help small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits make the most of the digital marketplace. The expo has an attendance target of 1500 over two days, and will feature free seminars by digital experts and up to 60 exhibits from leading digital providers.

Early bird discounts are available in all sponsor and exhibitor categories if you register and pay by Thursday **31 October 2013**. To download a prospectus or register go to:

[www.clickdigitalexpo.com.au](http://www.clickdigitalexpo.com.au)

RDA Brisbane a partner in new initiative to help businesses succeed



RDA Brisbane has helped launch **Business Excellence Roundtable** (BER), a new initiative providing support, guidance and networking to groups of small businesses across Brisbane, to help them grow and succeed.



Around 35 representatives from the business, community and government sectors attended the BER project launch on October 17 at QUT Gardens Point, hosted by the Australian Centre for Entrepreneurship Research. The Centre operates through the QUT Business School, and its Director Professor Per Davidsson was the keynote speaker on the night, discussing research which shows that small businesses engaged in networking greatly increase their survival odds.

Business Excellence Roundtable is an initiative of the Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) Brisbane Metro, in partnership with RDA Brisbane and the Brisbane City Council.

Roundtables - groups of 10 to 12 small businesses meeting monthly under the guidance of a professional business facilitator - will be established in locations across Brisbane. For a low membership fee, businesses will receive mentoring and support with their challenges, up to date business information and answers, and the opportunity to build a personal business network.

If you are interested in joining a Roundtable, contact Lead Facilitator Cameron Johns on 0497 289 164 or email [info@beroundtable.com.au](mailto:info@beroundtable.com.au)



From left: Professor Per Davidsson (QUT), Danny Lloyd (website design company Fat Galah, a BER supporter), Alice Langford (BEC), Margaret Blade (RDA Brisbane CEO) and Cameron Johns (BER)



## The Queensland Plan

Queensland Government releases new infrastructure plan



Above: Delegates at the Queensland Plan Summit included EOs and Chairs from RDAs across Queensland

## RDA Brisbane joins 626 Queenslanders at summit to map out a bold vision for state

RDA Brisbane Chair John Shepley, CEO Margaret Blade and Committee Member Nick Xynias rolled up their sleeves and got their pens out with Queenslanders from every walk of life earlier this month, as delegates at the two day Queensland Plan Summit held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

[The Queensland Plan](#) is a collaborative document being developed throughout 2013 which will outline a 30-year vision for the state and identify local and state priorities. Summit delegates were charged with distilling responses received through the first public consultation period – these represented the views of around 78,000 people – into a list of key priorities. A total of 39 were identified, with delegates then voting to whittle them down to a final 'top 10'. These were further workshopped to develop action strategies and decide what success would look like.

Delegates were encouraged by Premier Campbell Newman to be bold and courageous in their vision for Queensland, and also develop strategies which plan for half the population growth in the state to be outside of South East Queensland in the next 30 years.

The next step in the process is the development of the draft plan, which will be available for public review at the end of November.



Nick, John and Margaret hard at work.



**RDA Brisbane has hosted two workshops in conjunction with Foresters Community Finance to help not-for-profits and become more financially sustainable and less reliant on the grant funding treadmill.**

Around 50 organisations attended the workshops in September and October, which focused on using community finance for asset ownership, and how to access capital to develop social enterprise activity. For more info [click here](#).

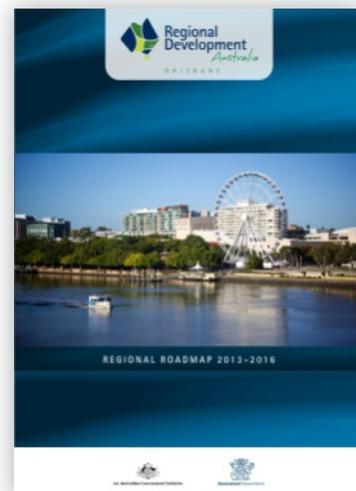


- 1 Smart Manufacturing Specialisations
- 2 Transport and Logistics
- 3 Digital Capacity
- 4 Regional Indicators
- 5 Human Capital
- 6 Cross Border Projects

## 2013 Regional Roadmap & Profile available on website

RDA Brisbane's draft 2013-2016 Regional Roadmap is now available for download on our website.

The document includes a comprehensive Regional Profile, containing a wealth of useful data on Brisbane, and is downloadable as a separate resource. For further information or comments, please contact RDA Brisbane CEO Margaret Blade on **0419 751 845**.



[www.rdabrisbane.org.au](http://www.rdabrisbane.org.au)

## SEQ Regional Development Initiative delivers final implementation packages

The **SEQ Regional Development Initiative** - a project which brought together the seven SEQ RDAs plus RDA Northern Rivers NSW to work on common issues - has handed over its final project report and consortia delivery strategy, with the individual RDAs now set to 'take the baton' on key issues.

The delivery strategy identifies five priority themes across SEQ and Northern NSW - Smart Manufacturing Specialisations, Transport and Logistics, Digital Capacity, Regional Indicators and Human Capital - with a corresponding goal for each area. Each priority theme has an implementation package, which articulates the key actions for RDAs, timeframes and SEQ partners.

The actions will be implemented through the eight RDAs participating in the project.

RDA Brisbane, which was the host RDA for the initiative, has already incorporated strategies on all these priorities into its new Regional Roadmap (see story top right).

For more information contact Tracy Scott-Rimington on **0433 346 344** or [tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au](mailto:tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au)



Biz Dojo co-founder and co-working pioneer Jonah Merchant was a forum keynote speaker

## Digital Work Hub Forum explores collaborative workspaces for SEQ

RDA Brisbane CEO Margaret Blade joined more than 50 other government and industry representatives at the State Library in late August to hear from Australasia's thought leaders in collaborative workspaces.

The forum was part of the **Digital Work Hub Project**, a joint initiative of the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Logan & Redlands, Moreton Bay and Gold Coast RDAs. With 191,00 workers commuting daily from these regions, the forum explored the benefits of establishing co-working spaces, which include boosting local economic activity, easing congestion and enhancing creativity, productivity and quality of life.

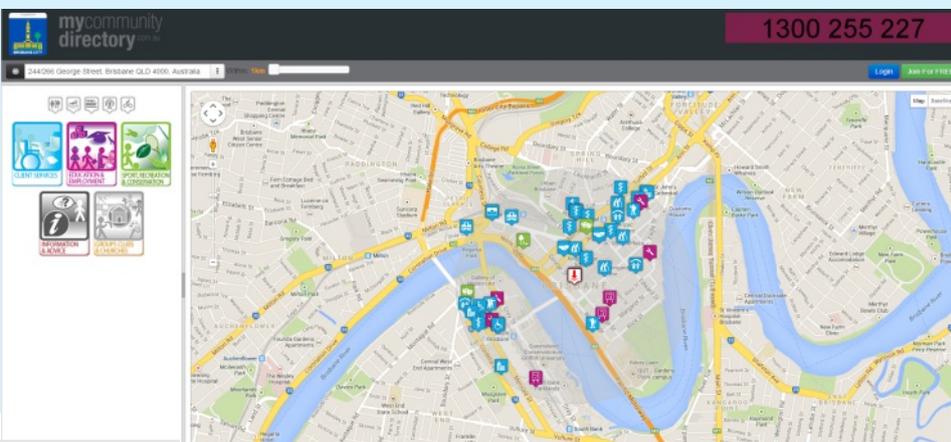
By the end of 2013, the Digital Work Hub Project aims to complete the economic analysis, regional assessment and business models necessary to help investors develop a business case for establishing collaborative work hubs across South East Queensland.

## New application to help disabled

My Community Directory has launched a new application to help disabled people in Queensland find local services and activities, an online resource they can use independently or with minimal assistance.

[Access My Community](#) combines information from My Community Directory and other open sources into an integrated Google mapping tool. By simply entering an individual's location, it can map services in the following categories: client services; education and employment; sport, recreation and conservation; information and advice; and groups, clubs and churches.

Access My Community is supported by Brisbane City Council and was developed in conjunction with My Community Directory. Input was also received from the staff, clients and parents of Westside Community Services, and a range of disability, sport, health, education and employment agencies across Queensland.



[My Community Directory](#), Queensland's one-stop online community directory for the public, community organisations and governments, now uses Google Translate, making it easy for people from a non-English speaking background to access info on local community services.



New disaster resource



The Queensland Government is encouraging businesses and residents to prepare their own tailored, interactive preparedness plan for natural disaster at the [Get Ready Queensland website](#).

By entering some simple details about your location and local risks, the 'Get Ready' program will give you a simple task to complete each week to help build your resilience. You'll also be able to track how you are going and see how your community compares with others across the state.

## DIGITAL 101 FOR BUSINESS

Are you an established business wanting to embrace digital for growth?

Digital Brisbane is kicking off a series of Digital 101 for Business events. Find out more about:

- Developing a digital marketing strategy
- What to consider when developing a website
- How to use digital tools such as apps, SMS and email
- Questions you should be asking your digital supplier.

Digital 101 for Business will be held on Wednesday 6 November, 6.30pm – 8.30pm at the Hamilton Hotel. Cost is \$25 per person.

With five digital experts speaking, one lucky attendee will have a chance to win a two hour business consultation with the speaker of their choice. (Conditions apply.)

[Click here](#) to register online or email [info@digitalbrisbane.com.au](mailto:info@digitalbrisbane.com.au) for more details.



The RSA, an organisation dedicated to inspiring social innovation, will be holding an evening about 'Inspiration and Young People' on Thursday 31 October at the Brisbane Powerhouse.

Julie Bell from The Smith Family will be one of the featured speakers, talking about the [Work Inspiration](#) program, a fresh new approach to work experience which RDA Brisbane helped to launch in Australia earlier this year.

[Click here](#) for full details and speakers.



## River's Edge Strategy unveiled

### Suppliers wanted for new online Digital Directory

Digital Brisbane is calling for digital and technology suppliers to be part of a new online resource hub.

The **Digital Directory** is a free online tool that will get your company in front of an estimated 10,000 local businesses, leading to new clients and a greater visibility for your brand. Enquirers can search for digital solution suppliers in these areas:

- Building a website (web development, responsive design, mobile)
- Technology (hardware, software, cloud services)
- Digital marketing (SEO, SEM, social, content)
- Buying and selling (e-commerce)
- Skills and training (professional development, recruiting services)
- Driving efficiencies (back-end and operational digital solutions)
- The business case (assistance in 'making the case for digital', management consulting)
- Start-up Brisbane (Business planning and digital strategy development)

For more digital resources for businesses, upcoming events and case studies go to:

[www.digitalbrisbane.com.au](http://www.digitalbrisbane.com.au)

Brisbane City Council has unveiled the final **River's Edge Strategy** outlining a blueprint for improving connectivity, access and activity along the inner reaches of the city's greatest natural asset – the Brisbane River.

The strategy presents a range of potential projects to encourage people to make better use of the river and its edges including more viewing platforms, new riverside dining options, improved RiverLoops for jogging and cycling and enhanced tourism opportunities.

Council will now begin investigations into the potential projects, with one of the first being the possible reuse of former ferry terminals to allow the transformation of these disused facilities for purposes such as mooring kayaks and recreational vessels or for picking up and dropping off passengers for tourist boats and water taxis.

The development of the River's Edge Strategy received overwhelming support from the community and businesses, with more than 2,000 survey responses received during the initial feedback period, plus more than 450 survey responses and around 30 written submissions received on the draft Strategy.



ecoBiz program is now delivered by CCIQ

**ecoBiz**, a free program to help Queensland businesses reduce power, waste and water usage and improve their productivity and bottom line, is now being delivered by the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland (CCIQ).

The program includes: practical sustainability workshops running throughout the state; one-on-one coaching sessions where experts come to your premises and help you develop an action plan tailored to your business; webinars; and a variety of online resources including case studies, fact sheets, tools and calculators.

ecoBiz is supported by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, the University of Southern Queensland and Australian Business Training Solutions.

