

RDA on



*Queensland
January 2017*



**Regional
Development
Australia**

QUEENSLAND

***Launch
Issue!***

AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP AUSTRALIA'S REGIONS.

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Regional Development Australia (Queensland) would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of our lands.



An Australian Government Initiative

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Chair's Message

As Chair of Regional Development Australia Ipswich & West Moreton and the Queensland representative on the RDA Chair's Reference Group, I would like to introduce the launch issue of our Queensland focussed RDA newsletter 'RDA on Q' on behalf of my fellow Chairs and Committees.

The 'RDA on Q January 2017' newsletter will highlight the achievements and role of the Queensland RDA partnerships and what the RDAs do for the National and State economy and local communities.

The 12 Queensland RDA Committees work collaboratively to identify common issues, priorities and strategies relating to both Australian and State Government programs and policies.

Queensland comprises of 78 local governments. The number of local government authorities per RDA region can range from 1 to 21. All Queensland RDAs either have local council representatives on their committees or meet with their council's regularly. All RDAs have informal arrangements with their local councils and the majority have conducted joint events and programs together.

Some great examples of the work RDAs in Queensland do include:

- RDA Brisbane – Click! Digital expo
- RDA Fitzroy and Central West – Industry Diversification
- RDA Gold Coast – Future Gold Coast project
- RDA Ipswich & West Moreton – IWMJobs initiative
- RDA Logan & Redlands – Business Idea Bootcamp
- RDA Mackay Isaac Whitsunday – Growing Greater Whitsunday Agrifood
- RDA Moreton – Entrepreneurship – Startup Moreton Bay Region
- RDA Sunshine Coast – Digital Sunshine Coast
- RDA Townsville and North West – IQ-RAP Regional Roads
- RDA Wide Bay Burnett – HMAS Tobruk – Dive wreck

Queensland RDAs regularly consult with elected representatives from all levels of government, Federal departments and agencies, local governments and community leaders to synchronise priorities for the region.

The RDAs in Queensland are deeply involved in regional funding applications and are often the first port of call relating to funding from all avenues both public and private. This is because the RDAs represent all corners of Queensland.

After almost seven years, the Queensland RDAs are firmly embedded in their regions and across borders. RDAs work collaboratively with all levels of government and have built a credible and successful structure that adds value and knowledge to all regions.

Regards,

Kathy Bensted

Chair
Regional Development Australia
Ipswich & West Moreton Inc.



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Page 3: RDAIWM Chair,
Ms Kathy Bensted.

Page 4: 4WD river crossing,
Cape York.

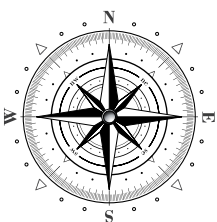
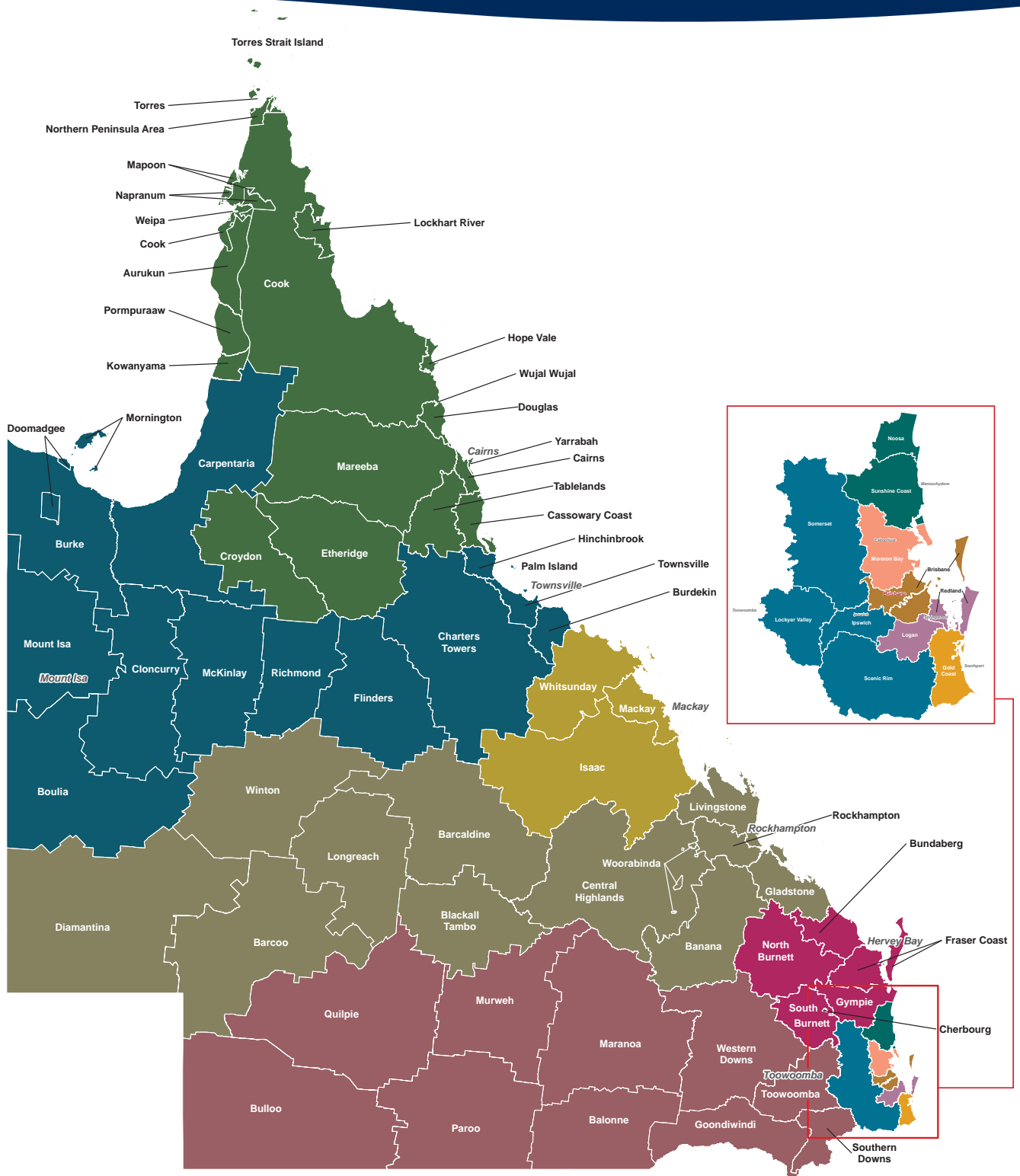
Page 4: Tomato Picking in Mackay
Isaac Whitsunday – Whitsunday
Regional Council.

BACK COVER – Blue skies contrast
dramatically with the red soil
landscape near Julia Creek North
Queensland 1985 – Ron Gales.

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Queensland Regional Development Australia Committees



CLICK! Digital Expo assists SEQ and Northern NSW SMEs and startups

The digital economy is now the single most important driver of innovation and growth in our economy. Digital disruption is upending old marketing and business models at an unprecedented pace.

In November 2016, RDA Brisbane staged the CLICK! Digital Expo, a free regional event at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, that addresses the need for small to medium size businesses, startups across all industry sectors and not for profit organisations to embrace digital transformation, meet the challenges of digital disruption and prosper in a changing global economy.

This event – the fourth CLICK! Digital Expo since 2012 – is evolving with the changing digital and technological landscape. The 2016 event was the largest event yet drawing over 1,200 registrations from around SEQ and Northern NSW who had the opportunity to visit 52 exhibits of technological and digital products and services and choose from over 40 seminar sessions on topics designed to inform and education SMEs and startups at different stages of their digital evolution (i.e. beginner, intermediate and advanced).

Topics covered in the seminar programme included The Internet of Things, Cyber Security, Digital Marketing, Social Media and the Power of Video. A dedicated seminar session, Starting Up, was held for intenders and startup businesses across all industry sectors.

RDA Brisbane hosted 16 digital high-growth-potential startup businesses from around South East Queensland to exhibit at 2016 CLICK! thanks to an Advance Queensland grant. Jerome Bechard from Sunshine Coast startup getonlinesimply remarked:

“As an attendee in 2015, to come full circle from the expo that inspired me to start my own business into becoming an exhibitor in 2016 has been an experience. CLICK! will certainly hold a valuable experience with my business, as it was the catalyst for it and another potentially great exposing factor as well. It was an enjoyable experience that I have taken away a new client and a new collaboration from.”

This free event, staged and organised by RDA Brisbane, is made possible with funding from partners, sponsors, exhibitors and State and Local Government grants. Career Employment Australia which runs the Australian Government funded Greater Brisbane Small Business Advisory Services, was the Founding Partner. Senior Partner was Brisbane City Council and Digital Brisbane, while Quest Community News was Media Partner.

The CLICK! Digital Expo has become Brisbane and South East Queensland's premier free digital business event, and RDA Brisbane is addressing a significant economic development need for SMEs in the area.

www.CLICKdigitalexpo.com.au



RDA Brisbane Chair, Shane Fracchia, opens the 4th CLICK! Digital Expo at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.



Just some of the 1000+ attendees at 2016 CLICK!



Trevor Evans MP, Federal Member for Brisbane is interviewed by Pop Up Radio's Ian Skippen at the expo.



RDA Brisbane staff who organised the expo. L to R School-based trainee Madisson, Expo Convenor Shaleen Wharton and CEO Margaret Blade.



Learning best practice approaches to regional innovation, clusters and competitiveness

RDA Brisbane with the co-operation of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, arranged for a delegation from Australia's Industry Growth Centres (IGCs) to attend the 19th TCI 2016 Global Conference "Global Changes, Challenges for Innovation Clusters" in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) in November 2016.

The Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres initiative is an industry-led approach driving innovation, productivity and competitiveness by focusing on areas of competitive strength and strategic priority, designed to help Australia transition into smart, high value and export focused industries.

The arrangements were made through RDA Brisbane's affiliation with the TCI Network – the global network for clusters, innovation and competitiveness.

The conference was attended by over 500 regional innovation and industry policy officers, trade and investment officials and cluster practitioners from around the world and enabled the IGC delegates to connect with global clusters and explore opportunities for international collaboration.

Strategic introductions were facilitated by the European Commission's Cluster Collaboration Platform team including a VIP meeting with Head of Unit for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. Pre and post conference visits enabled delegates to learn from some of Europe's leading clusters, providing delegates with a deeper understanding of what factors help make successful clusters.

In 2017 RDA Brisbane will again host the TCI Network Oceania chapter's 4th annual conference focussing on clusters for collaboration and innovation to drive regional competitiveness and bolster national prosperity.

RDAs are encouraged to connect the clusters and businesses in their regions to the Industry Growth Centres to keep informed of activities and funding programs in their sectors.

For further information please contact RDA Brisbane Regional Development Coordinator, Tracy Scott-Rimington tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au or 0433 346 344.

Above Australian Industry Growth Centre delegates meeting with the TCI Network Board of Directors, Eindhoven (The Netherlands) 9th November; RDA Brisbane's Tracy Scott-Rimington (second from right) is a Member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the TCI Network Oceania chapter.

An Industry Growth Centre delegation, arranged by RDA Brisbane, was among attendees from nearly 40 countries at the 19th TCI 2016 Global Conference "Global Changes, Challenges for Innovation Clusters" in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) in November 2016.



RDA Chair Shane Fracchia introduces Digital Business insight's John Sheridan at a preview event for the Manufacturing Toolbox.



manufacturing.digitaltoolbox.org digital platform.

Regional collaboration turbocharged: The Manufacturing Toolbox and future applications

Regions have to collaborate. Few have the resources to go it alone.

This simple fact led to the Brisbane-developed Manufacturing Toolbox, a digital platform to help Australian manufacturers to find the right help and support, improve profitability, increase productivity and build relationships with other manufacturers, clients and customers.

The developer *Digital Business insights Pty Ltd* worked with its founding partners – CSIRO, Australian Computer Society, Queensland Manufacturing Industry (QMI) Solutions, Queensland State Library, Trade and Investment Queensland, Outsource Institute and others – to engage with the manufacturing industry, and the Manufacturing Toolbox was created as a national resource focusing on the main issues that manufacturers face: export, management and workforce skills, R&D and collaboration.

RDA Brisbane secured a Queensland Government grant to seed fund the project and provided a preview of works-in-progress at its 2015 CLICK! Digital Expo.

The Manufacturing Toolbox went live in 2016. and it enables manufacturers to showcase their businesses locally, regionally or globally,

engage with others, access capability building programs and find help and advice.

Queensland manufacturers are invited to sign up free to the Manufacturing Toolbox and showcase their businesses nationally and to the world at manufacturing.digitaltoolbox.org

The Manufacturing Toolbox can be cloned and configured for regions and sectors alike, including Agriculture and Mining & Energy, with all versions able to join up – such is its agility.

2017 will see the development of the **Regional Economic Development Toolbox** to support smart and sustainable regional development. It will use the resources developed for the Manufacturing Toolbox and focus on key regional themes: future of jobs and work, adding value to regional goods and services, regional export, regional collaboration and sharing, regions – 2020 and beyond, etc.

Partnership options will be offered to all RDAs, Councils and regional economic development organisations in Australia.

For further information please contact RDA Brisbane CEO Margaret Blade blade@rdabrisbane.org.au or 0419 751 846

Queensland State Library – Coding and Robotics Program

This jointly funded project will provide assessable funding for the Local Government Areas (LGAs) within the Darling Downs and South West region to support their regional and remote libraries deliver the State Library of Queensland's (SLQ) Coding and Robotics Program.

The funding will provide resources and training to library staff and community members to deliver the coding classes to students of those communities.

With the introduction of coding into the Queensland State curriculum, it is imperative that regional and remote communities have exposure to robotics and coding, similarly to that of their metropolitan equals. Additionally it is important that extra-curricular opportunities exist, so those students with an interest and aptitude for coding and STEM, can progress that interest, the same as those with an interest or ability for sport or dance.

Coder Dojo Toowoomba

Coder Dojo is a global movement of free, volunteer-led, community based coding and programming clubs for young people. At a Dojo, young people, between 7 and 17, learn how to code, develop websites, apps, programs, games and explore technology in an informal and creative environment. In addition to learning to code attendees meet like-minded people and are exposed to the possibilities of technology.

Within the Coder Dojo Movement there is a focus on community, peer learning, youth mentoring and self-led learning, with an emphasis on showing how coding is a force for change in the world.

Coder Dojo Toowoomba is operated through the Canvas Co-working/Toowoomba Start-up Centre. RDA DDSW has partnered with the Toowoomba Regional Council as foundation supporters of Coder Dojo Toowoomba. RDA DDSW has supported the Toowoomba Start-up chapter since its inception through support of their Start-up/pitch weekends and Gov Hack weekends.



Coding and Robotics Program Support

RDA Darling Downs and South West Queensland has identified the STEM/ Coding and Robotics space as vital for regional community vitality.

It is imperative that regional and rural youth have the same exposure to Coding and Robotics as those students in larger populated centres.

In addition, it is also imperative that regional innovation is a focus and that key industry sectors, such as agriculture, who historically are great innovators, have access to funding and opportunities to create employment that will retain and attract people to regional towns.



Toowoomba Town Hall. Image Dan Proud.



Early morning fog, cattle grazing – Darling Downs.

TOOWOOMBA AND SURAT BASIN PATHFINDER

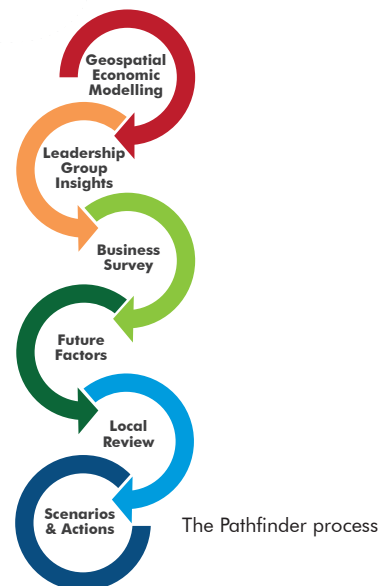
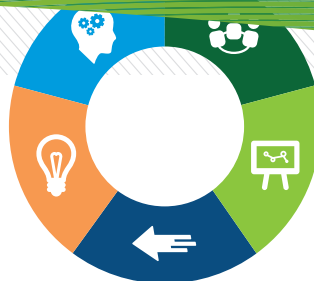
KEY MESSAGE

Toowoomba and Surat Basin is ready for growth in its logistics and agriculture industries.

- Logistics is a growing industry for Toowoomba that can deliver regional benefits through enhanced supply chain management, technical capability and market access.
- Agriculture is a leading industry for all three local government areas, but it needs targeted investment and coordination that builds local capacity and opens new markets to realise its potential.

The Pathfinder Project enables the Local Leadership Group in Toowoomba and the Surat Basin – the Mayors of Maranoa, Toowoomba and the Western Downs LGAs, the CEO of Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise and RDA Darling Downs and Southwest Queensland – to take a leading role in the future development of the region.

The Pathfinder Project has provided the Local Leadership Group with a clear understanding of the factors that will have the greatest influence on the future of the region – the 'Future Factors' for Toowoomba and the Surat Basin – and how the region can act to shape a positive future. The project's process is summarised across and was collaboratively delivered with RAI and the project partners; TSBE, QGC, RDA, and Australia Pacific LNG.



KEY FINDINGS

The region has solid economic foundations, with strengths in four key areas.

Key Strengths of the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Region



Competitive Advantage

- Dual track economic structure: diverse + high dependence on primary industries (e.g. mining and agriculture)
- Strong education to keep people in the region
- Sound transport assets to engage with markets outside the region



Industry and supply chain advantages

- Sound logistics assets to engage with supply chains going through the region
- Local strength in agriculture that can be further developed with engagement to other parts of the economy
- Poor appreciation of strength of international competition facing the region



Population and investment trends

- Enough critical mass in population to gain economies of scale through agglomeration across the whole region – with Toowoomba as the hub
- Focus on high producing industries of agriculture, logistics, mining and services to develop competitive advantage
- Lack of international engagement
- Lack of youth engagement



Leadership and institutional trends

- Strong and proactive leadership in all areas
- Various institutional structures engaging in the region loosely coordinated.
- Need for more strategic collaboration between businesses and across business/universities
- Challenge is business 'resistance to change' (and strategic thinking and lack of innovation)



Northern RDA Alliance – delivering strategic outcomes across the North

RDA FNQ&TS actively contributes to and supports the alliance of eight RDAs across northern Australia through the Northern RDA Alliance.

The NRDA has been meeting regularly to explore common interests and issues in supporting policies and prioritised investment opportunities to ensure the sustainable development of Northern Australia.

The Northern RDA Alliance is growing from strength to strength with a cohesive, collaborative approach to delivering key elements of the Northern Australia White Paper.

The NRDA shared priorities are:

1. A genuine exploration of incentive options to lift Northern Australia Investment and Livability
2. Connecting Northern Australia through Strategic Road Infrastructure
3. Integrating ICT including trialling high-speed wireless technology
4. Secure Access to Clean Water for Northern Australia Communities
5. Towards a Northern Australia Energy Strategy
6. Towards a collaborative research initiative supporting agriculture

Delivery on key NRDA priorities to date include:

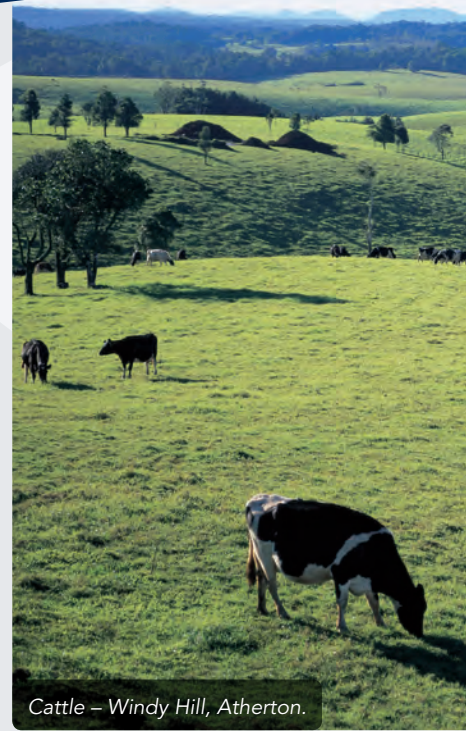
- Operational works for the 'Delivering the High Speed Wireless Technology Pilot' project – testing the long distance point to point microwave link as a low cost strategy to expand the benefit of existing fibre infrastructure in remote NT (RDA NT)

- The January 2016 launch of the 'Inland Queensland Road Action Plan' (RDA TNWQ)
- The July 2016 launch of the 'Mid-North Western Australia Investment Portfolio' (RDA Pilbara)

Energy is a key economic enabler and without clear pathways to the future, the growth agenda for the region and the rest of Northern Australia will be difficult to realise. RDA FNQ&TS is leading the development of a Northern Australia Energy Strategy through a formative partnership with CSIRO, on behalf of the NRDA.

A Northern Australia Energy Strategy is required to identify the pathways to deliver reliable, secure and affordable energy addressing current issues with pricing and supply, improving productivity, maximising export opportunities (services/technology) and smoothing the transition to a low carbon energy future. Driving the Northern Australia Energy Strategy is a critical priority for RDA FNQ&TS in 2017.

RDA FNQ&TS continues to pursue opportunities to work collaboratively with the Office of Northern Australia and other delivery agencies of the Northern Australia White Paper initiative, with a key focus on the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (based in Cairns). We will be looking to utilise the 'Developing Northern Australia Investors Forum' in Darwin and the 'Developing Northern Australia' Conference in Cairns this year to promote the outcomes of the collaborative work of the NRDA including the Northern Australia Energy Strategy.



Cattle – Windy Hill, Atherton.

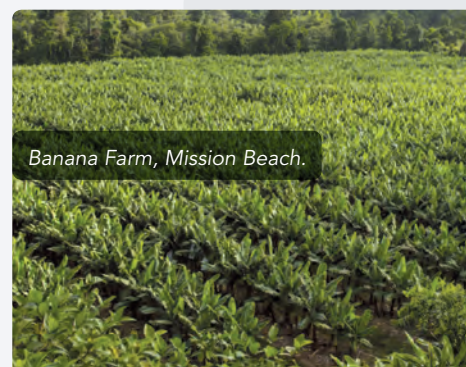
Federal Regional Infrastructure Investment

RDA FNQ&TS facilitated and supported seven successful applicants from the region to secure \$35.6m from the three grant rounds of the National Stronger Regions Fund supporting projects to the value of \$126.2m. We were delighted to receive more than 60% of the investment in Queensland for the final NSRF Round providing over \$20m of the \$32.5m for Queensland. Projects funded included critical water infrastructure, an aquatic facility, regional airport upgrade, performing arts centre and historical tourism infrastructure.

We are looking forward to supporting quality applications from across our region through the two streams of the new Building Better Regions Fund.



Minister Frydenberg with the RDA FNQ&TS Committee and CEO, November 2015, Cairns.



Banana Farm, Mission Beach.



Termite Mounds, Gulf Savannah & Outback .

Driving Infrastructure Outcomes – Cape York Regional Package

The Cape York Region Package (CYRP) is a \$260.5m program of works to upgrade critical infrastructure on Cape York Peninsula, jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments (80:20) to be delivered by 2018/19.

The package consists of three sub-programs:

- \$200m program of works to progressively extend the seal on the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) between Lakeland and Weipa over 4 years
- \$10m over 4 years for sealing works on the remaining gravel sections of Endeavour Valley Road through to Hope Vale
- \$50.5m for priority community infrastructure works identified by the Torres and Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance for projects that upgrade and improve infrastructure such as roads, barge and boat ramps, water and sewerage). The works will be carried out in Aurukun, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Pormpuraaw and Wujal Wujal communities

The CYRP will deliver improved access to Cape York for freight, tourists and other road users, improved safety, reduced on-going road maintenance costs, improved community infrastructure, and employment, training and business development opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

RDA FNQ&TS has been a key supporter of the project and acted as the secretariat for the CYRP Sub Working Group and Taskforce, regularly disseminating information on the CYRP across a broad range of stakeholders, improving understanding of the project and its delivery, and enabling stakeholders to provide feedback to the delivery Departments (Qld Transport and Main Roads and the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development).

This approach has been welcomed and is well supported by stakeholders and departments involved, delivering a more inclusive process through strong, regular communication improving support for the project and its outcomes.

The CYRP is not only providing critical road connectivity between Weipa and Laura through the sealing 200km of the Peninsula Development Road, but is also delivering a \$50.5m investment in Indigenous community infrastructure needs, as prioritised by the Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance. Delivery of the community infrastructure works is occurring through local government tender processes, maximising opportunities for local and Indigenous employment outcomes.

The critical infrastructure needs of remote local governments continues to be highlighted throughout the CYRP process as an important precursor to meeting economic development aspirations.

Ongoing improvements to the tender and procurement processes have increased the participation and benefit rate from Indigenous employees and businesses, as well as other local businesses. RDA FNQ&TS plays a role in driving the continuous improvement of the delivery of the CYRP and maintains extensive networks and positive relationships across the Cape, in Brisbane and Canberra to ensure the successful delivery of the CYRP.

RDA FNQ&TS views the CYRP as a potential model for the effective delivery of infrastructure investment by State, Territory and Federal governments across northern Australia, emphasising the value of structured regional engagement mechanisms.

RDA FNQ&TS acknowledges the Reconciliation Award received by the Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads with the Cape York Land Council in recognition of the efforts of both parties to secure strong outcomes for Cape people through the CYRP and related native title claim and Indigenous Land Use Agreement negotiations.

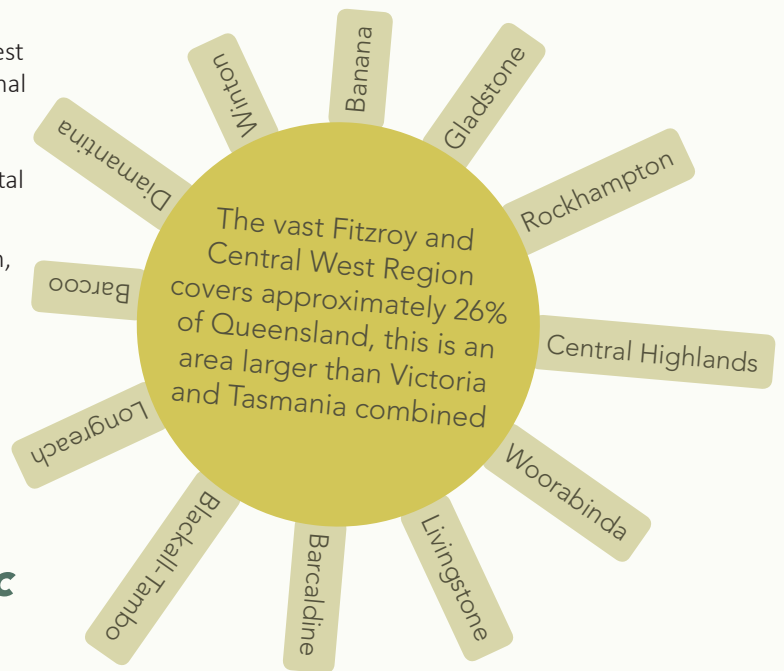
RDA FNQ&TS is looking to future work to secure the next tranche of funding to finalise the seal of the Peninsula Development Road which is the key driver to unlocking the economic opportunities of Weipa and the West Cape with linkages to related processes around land use planning, infrastructure priorities and investment, water infrastructure and agricultural expansion.



Weipa, Cape York.

The Regional Development Australia Fitzroy and Central West (RDAFCW) build partnerships between governments, regional development organisations, local businesses, community groups, key regional stakeholders and investors to provide strategic and targeted responses to economic, environmental and social issues affecting the region.

These partnerships are developed to deliver on our Mission, Vision and key economic outcomes for the region.



MISSION

Through collaboration, facilitate diverse economic opportunities and achieve sustainable regional growth.



“Regional Development Australia Fitzroy and Central West prides itself on working in the blue-sky space, linking the right people to the right projects, tackling the issues impacting economic development and supporting innovative thinking in Regional Queensland. A key focus for RDAFCW into the future will be attracting private investors to the region to compliment the investment being made at all levels of government.”

– **Kalair McArthur, EO**

“The task of facilitating economic development is not one we take lightly and I believe that through collaboration and identifying diverse economic opportunities that RDAFCW will help achieve sustainable regional growth.”

– **Graeme Kanofski, Chair**

The regions of Fitzroy and Central West are diverse with rich, natural, social and cultural features that now and into the future will play a critical role in the development of Northern Australia and the national economy.

The Central and Western Queensland region has a range of strong transport assets that draw resources and products from a very large geographical region to key transport and export hubs. These assets place this region as the gateway to Northern Australia and a key consideration in the economic strategy for the region and the country.

Gateway to Northern Australia

In 2017 our priorities areas are:

- Telecommunications
- Aged Care
- Creative Industries
- Transport
- Renewable Energy
- Northern Australia

Auckland Point Wharf Gladstone.

VISION CONSTANTLY CONNECTING INNOVATING & ACHIEVING



Transport.



Telecommunications.



Creative Industries.

What We Do

Our organisation works to understand the ever changing economic subtleties of the area as a part of the global economy. We appreciate that the region is full of unique economic pockets that rely on building sustainable economic connections to other regions to thrive.

Building and strengthening those connections is a key focus.

Future Gold Coast

Following the 2015 launch of the Future Gold Coast project, a collaboration between RDAGC, City of Gold Coast, KPMG and Gold Coast business leaders, an update and relaunch of the project was made in May at a business breakfast attended by over 850.

Following the launch there was a facilitated workshop session for each identified area of interest to further discuss the key outcomes of the report and to plan how to progress key projects in the region.

These workshop sessions provided a platform from which to advance major regional infrastructure projects during 2016-17 and beyond.

Events such as this and other previous forums have proved to be important in taking the economic and social pulse of the region and determining the body of work for RDAGC in those areas where it can exercise some influence, or where there is not significant activity already being undertaken by other organisations.

These forums have been especially influential on the projects that RDAGC were involved with over the coming year and will therefore be incorporated into our annual calendar.

Study Gold Coast Forum and Workshop

In April RDAGC supported a presentation and workshop based on the Future Gold Coast project and promoted by Study Gold Coast which is a NFP organisation which promotes the Gold Coast as a study and education destination. Leading Demographer Bernard Salt presented a report based on the Future Gold Coast project to an audience of approximately 150 educators, industry and government representatives.

Gold Coast Health Pathways Alliance

This program is a Queensland Government initiative and RDAGC has assisted the program's proponents to establish a presence in the region, to establish strategies for the facilitation of health and medical career pathways for school and university students.

Commonwealth Games Legacy Project

In collaboration with a NFP research consultant, the Hornery Institute, RDAGC finalised a scoping study to identify opportunities for creating an employment legacy from the Commonwealth Games. Outcomes included:

- Providing the evidence base required to drive the formation of legacy strategies that target sustainable employment, relevant skills acquisition and workforce development
- Informing key stakeholder thinking and future activities associated with the realisation of sustainable employment strategies
- Creating opportunities to grow existing initiatives and identify new, innovative employment, skills and business support projects that will directly benefit the community and businesses of the Gold Coast
- Informing local economic development and procurement thinking and behaviours
- Establishing a 'development point of difference' for the Gold Coast in its delivery of legacy strategies
- Acting as a stimulus for the identification and engagement of relevant stakeholders and partners/sponsors
- Identifying potential to leverage employment and skills investments to create shared value outcomes for the Gold Coast community, its businesses and Queensland as a whole



The Gold Coast stretches along 57km of coastline.



Gold Coast Health & Knowledge Precinct.



The Gold Coast is Australia's premier tourist destination.



RDA Gold Coast sponsor the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards.



The Gold Coast Light Rail – an iconic city transport system.



Future Gold Coast

The Future Gold Coast project has highlighted priorities and opportunities for the region. This project and the underlying 'Beyond the Horizon' report provide a framework which will guide RDAGC activities. It will focus activity in the region towards:

- Economic development
- International business
- Investment and development
- Education
- Health
- Tourism and visitation
- Retail
- Arts, creative and culture
- Technology and innovation

This project plays a key role in driving the direction of the region's future economy and will provide collaborative support to the City of Gold Coast's strategic plans and investment attraction initiatives. The project will also enhance the city's reputation as an investment and lifestyle destination, in addition to attracting positive media coverage for the city.

A summary of key initiatives has been generated across each sector and is online at futuregoldcoast.com.au

Health + Knowledge Precinct Collaboration

Both areas of opportunity endorsed by the Future Gold Coast project as being of economic significance for the region.

RDAGC will collaborate with Queensland Government, Griffith University and City of Gold Coast to undertake a project (currently in development) to promote an advanced design and manufacturing cluster development program at the new Precinct which is adjacent to the new Griffith University Hospital.

The details of this project are being finalised by the project's proponents and will involve the input and support of RDAGC collaboratively with other major stakeholders.

Other RDAGC initiatives inspired by Future Gold Coast Project:

Big Blue Sky

Big Blue Sky Initiative is a movement supported by multiple Gold Coast organisations, including City of Gold Coast and has taken several of the initiatives identified in the Future Gold Coast Project as projects for it to promote – particularly the idea of a festival of entrepreneurship, developing creative industries and promoting innovation. Its inaugural event in late 2015 attracted a wide range of international speakers and was attended by over 300 delegates.

RDAGC will support this initiative as a means of diffusing and advancing several of the identified initiatives in the Future Gold Coast project – in particular fostering innovation and promoting creative industries. A second major event was held in November, which RDA will support and participate in.

Digital Enterprise

RDAGC will continue to work closely with City of Gold Coast and Queensland's Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation to facilitate the promotion and roll out of digital economy initiatives across the region. Such initiatives will include:

- Digital awareness audit of SMEs
- Fibre rollout by City of Gold Coast
- Open data access for entrepreneurs and startups
- Creation of digital hubs

Other tactical initiatives will be identified and pursued during the course of the year. Potential tactical opportunities for RDAGC activities include:

- Commonwealth Games and small business
- Stage 3 light rail advocacy project
- M1 upgrade
- Broadwater Development
- Joint SEQ RDA initiatives

Overview

The management team and committee of RDA Ipswich & West Moreton (RDAIWM) during 2015-2016 focused on re-establishing the areas of Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset as a joint region of significance.

This region contributes over \$11.6bn to the national economy with over 17,100 local businesses with a combined population of over 300,000.

The committee has a single focus of commitment to sustainable and vibrant development throughout this area, its composition itself reflecting the region's diversity, ensuring local issues have been identified and appropriate responses developed.

The strong partnership and cooperation developed between RDAIWM and the four local government councils, small and medium businesses and the agriculture and community sector have strongly influenced the operations of the RDAIWM committee over the previous twelve months.



Chair RDAIWM Kathy Bensted and Scott Buchholz MP – Federal Member for Wright.



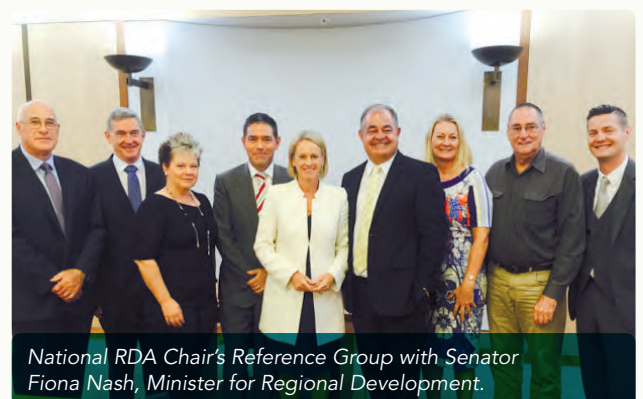
Assistant Minister Jennifer Howard, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, RDA Chair Kathy Bensted.

Highlights

The Queensland State Department of State Development, Ipswich City Council and RDAIWM conducted forums in 2015-2016 with the main outcome being attracting major industries and businesses to relocate in the Ipswich region. The attendees at these functions included transport and warehousing companies, property developers, financial organisations, health providers and investors.

RDAIWM also enhanced its community engagement and consultation strategy via weekly RDAIWM reports with information relating to government policies, programs, funding and announcements. Fortnightly e-newsletters were distributed via an electronic database containing over 2,000 contacts, with a total of over 81,000 emails reached. The RDAIWM website attracted over 8,500 hits between June to December 2016.

The development of 20 regional fact sheets under the "What Our Community Needs" attracted over 1,600 downloads from the RDAIWM website with a further 100 printed packs distributed. This initiative will continue to evolve and develop in the upcoming years.



National RDA Chair's Reference Group with Senator Fiona Nash, Minister for Regional Development.

RDAIWM ACTIVITIES 2016-2017

While each local government council has developed and are implementing its individual economic development plan, there is considerable value to be unlocked by adopting priorities that have a regional focus. RDAIWM does have an important facilitation role in assisting and advocating government and industry to fulfil their vision.

What Our Community Needs

This is an RDAIWM regional marketing initiative that highlights the key infrastructure priorities of the four local council authorities of Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional, Somerset Regional and Scenic Rim Regional Councils. The purpose of "What Our Community Needs" is to be an essential vehicle to initiate the progress of significant community infrastructure by drawing upon both public and private financial contributions.

IWMJobs

We understand the opportunity that the Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Somerset regions have in creating and matching local jobs for local people. The Talent Community platform enables the people responsible for economic development in an area to showcase jobs in their community for economic growth. In partnership with the Ipswich City, Lockyer Valley and Somerset Regional Councils, RDAIWM will promote the IWMjobs.com.au project through community forums, school presentations and also Chambers of Commerce workshops.

For the first six months of this initiative, there where:

- 55 employer members
- 360 employee members
- 32,332 online job vacancy views

IWM Agricultural Opportunities

A regional project to develop and improve agricultural infrastructure for individuals and communities. The four local governments within the region, State Government Departments, peak industry bodies and Australian Government agencies will meet to discuss major cross-regional agricultural priorities and how to address. Road, water, energy and export infrastructure will be identified as an area of significance for infrastructure investment to support the agriculture sector within our communities.



Invest Ipswich and Invest Bromelton

This initiative is to promote Invest Ipswich and Invest Bromelton as the leading platform to encourage the development of catalytic infrastructure by attracting public and private investment and the relocation of businesses and industries to the region. This platform will lead to some infrastructure priorities and individual investment prospects identified as a region of regional economic significance by the joint partners of the Queensland State Department of State Development, Ipswich City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council and RDA Ipswich & West Moreton.

This Is Our Region

RDAIWM identified the need to promote and raise the awareness of the Ipswich and West Moreton combined area as a region of difference and collaborations. "This Is Our Region" is a strategy that partners with the Chamber of Commerce's, Universities and Federal and Queensland State Government Departments and agencies.

The Spring Dinner Plate

In conjunction with the four Local Government Authorities (Ipswich, Somerset, Lockyer Valley and the Scenic Rim), Queensland State Government and key industry agencies will endeavour to highlight the agricultural industries of the region by conducting this project.

The Ipswich and West Moreton region has a combined population of 327,000 people, produces \$574m worth of gross value agricultural commodities and attracts just under 2 million day visits annually.

This will be an opportunity to showcase the local agricultural industry to both local users and exporters with a focus on economic agricultural business development.

Plan to revolutionise the not for profit transport sector



RDA Logan & Redlands has commenced working with a number of stakeholder groups to investigate how asset sharing, data sharing and new digital technologies could help eliminate duplication and waste in the community transport sector and lead to more efficient and cooperative business models in the long-term.

Locations for the study will include Logan, Redlands, the Sunshine Coast and Townsville, with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Logan & Redlands as the lead agency.

RDA Logan & Redlands CEO Mariae Leckie said the project already has the involvement and support of local government,

academia (including Griffith University, QUT and UQ) and non-government organisations, but also needed technology and corporate partners on board.

"Within the community transport sector, which includes the provision of services to the frail and vulnerable for things like medical appointments, hospital visits, respite care, Meals on Wheels, home care assistance and so on, there is enormous waste and duplication across the country," she said.

"In the same way that ride-sharing services like Uber have disrupted for-profit transport models, this study will be a catalyst for a shake-up of community transport business models.

"We'll be looking at how to reduce overheads, increase patronage and utilise lazy assets through avenues such as data sharing and cooperation between providers, new technology platforms for bookings and the development of new economies. For example, the leasing out of vehicles on weekends and after hours."

Ms Leckie added that the study would also examine the policy and urban planning implications for government of a "disrupted" sector.

Data collection and analysis will take place early 2017. Please contact Mariae Leckie, CEO if you would like to get involved. Mobile: 0438 793 578



New Deputy Chair

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Ashish Shah as Deputy Chair of RDA Logan & Redlands committee.

Mr Shah brings a wealth of knowledge and first-hand local government experience to the role. He has a strong background in infrastructure management and strategic planning at his current role with Logan City Council and formerly with Gold Coast and Townsville City Councils.

RDA Logan & Redlands is well positioned to support the community and provide advice to drive regional economic development and infrastructure projects and improve the productivity of the region.



Business Idea Bootcamps

In April 2016, RDA Logan & Redlands held the inaugural Business Idea Bootcamp at Griffith University Logan Campus. This event brought together a range of economic and innovation experts and practitioners, event partners included; Griffith University, Logan Office of Economic Development, McCullough Robertson, Impact Academy, Australia Institute of Commercialisation, Department of State Development, City of Logan Social Enterprise, Bendigo Bank, Innovate Queensland and Greater Brisbane Small Business Advisory Service.

The event was aimed at not-for-profit organisations, small business owners/startups and those with a great idea to turn into a business opportunity.

Over 60 people attended with ideas ranging from diverse sectors including art, music, engineering, tourism, marine, food production and recycling.

Since the Inaugural Business Idea Bootcamp, RDA Logan & Redlands has hosted another two Business Idea Bootcamps. One of the two Bootcamps was aimed at the Logan Migrant Business Community after many attendees from the 2016 Migrant Small

Business Expo held in May were interested in the Business Idea Bootcamp concept.

These one-day interactive events have helped people develop and test their business ideas. Industry experts shared skills and tools to assist them to formulate a compelling business case that would attract partners and investors. Bootcampers left knowing what their next step was and who could help get them there.

The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business was on hand to welcome participants to Business Idea Bootcamps and discussed with attendees how vital innovation is in today's economy. Attendees agreed Bootcamps were a great success and RDA Logan & Redlands was nationally recognised at the Economic Development Australia (EDA) 2016 National Awards for Community Economic Development.

In 2017, RDA Logan & Redlands looks forward to hosting more Business Idea Bootcamps. For more information visit www.rdaloganandredlands.org.au

100%
would
recommend this
event to others



The Business Idea Bootcamp will help you refine your current business idea and have your brain popping with new ideas.

It was awesome overall in every way. I now know where I'm going. Next step & beyond. Made some phenomenal connections and expanded my networking immeasurably. Informative 120%. Food was great too. All speakers were awesome.

I left the Business Idea Bootcamp with a definite outline moving forward with my business, I knew exactly what my first step was. I was excited to find that I was on the right track and that there were people there genuinely interested in what I had to offer. The mentors at the event were fantastic, very knowledgeable and approachable. Overall a great day.

60
participants



L to R RDA Logan & Redlands Previous Chair, Robert Hannaford, The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, RDA Logan & Redlands CEO, Mariae Leckie and RDA Logan & Redlands Treasurer, David Gardner.



L to R The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, Mariae Leckie, CEO RDA Logan & Redlands, Linus Power MP, State Member for Logan and Blaise Itabelo, ACCESS Community Development Coordinator.



Regional High Performance Network

As part of an effort to provide economic practitioners from across MIW with the opportunity to collaborate and connect effectively with each other, RDA MIW and the Department of State Development MIW, had established a Regional Development Group.

The group met a couple of times during the year to discuss key issues for the region and develop potential collaborative regional projects. One of the opportunities identified by the members of the Regional Development Group was the opportunity for the group members to take part in shared professional development.

RDA MIW took a lead role in seeing this opportunity come to fruition. Discussions were held with Dr Renu Agarwal from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS Business School) and we were fortunate to be able to take part in a pilot project known as the Regional High Performance Network (RHPN). The pilot was also supported by the University of Melbourne based Centre for Workplace Leadership (CWL) which had substantial support from the Australian Government for this initiative.

The RHPN pilot was conducted in order to develop the foundation for an effective new approach to stimulating and enabling management and leadership development in regional Australia. From our regional perspective the program provided leadership and management development and also allowed for closer collaboration

between economic practitioners, as real issues, experiences and management techniques were shared in a peer to peer learning environment.

This program improved the capacity and skills of the participating economic practitioners in our regions and enhanced existing networks. The pilot program has also provided participants with access to quality, affordable professional development which is sometimes out of the reach of those working in the regions.

Eight members of the Regional Development Group volunteered to take part in the programme and RDA MIW acted as the facilitator.

The eight original members of the Mackay RHPN group were from:

- RDA MIW
- Department of State Development x 2
- Mackay Regional Council
- Whitsunday Economic Development x 2
- Mackay Tourism
- Isaac Regional Council

Training modules were developed by UTS in key areas of management and leadership. The group used these modules to guide knowledge and skills development and to link that new knowledge to past experience and to future action in the workplace.

Our group completed six peer to peer training modules over six months and these included:

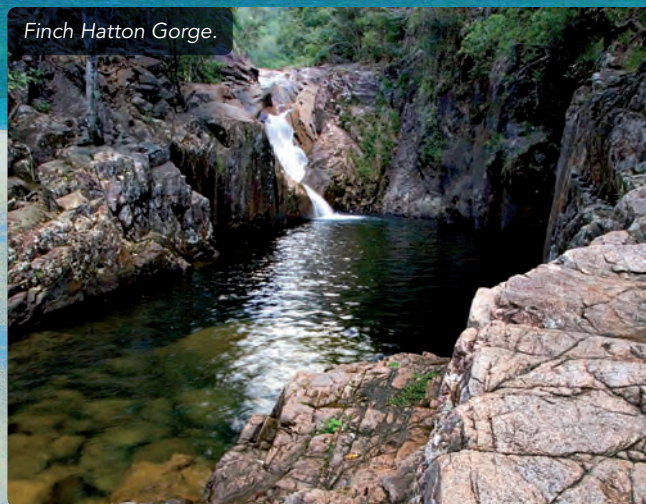
- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Mindful Leadership
- Instilling a Talent Mindset
- Thinking Entrepreneurially to Grow Your Business
- Collaborating and Networking
- Strategic Blind spots

Feedback on the programme was positive with some participants looking to run their own programs for industry participants in the future. Given that we were able to take part in the pilot phase of the program, this training and collaboration opportunity was able to be delivered at minimal cost to RDA MIW and at no cost (apart from travel) to the participants.

Overall, the RHPN was a low cost capacity building project that clearly aligns with our priority of progressing regional education and training opportunities. It brought our various economic practitioners from across the region closer together, which is a significant precursor to regional economic development and will hopefully deliver a framework for delivering training into regional Australia into the future. RDA MIW are thrilled to have been able to bring this program into our region at pilot stage and we look forward to seeing the benefits that enhanced professional development and closer networks deliver in 2017.



Mining.



Finch Hatton Gorge.



Aquaculture, Isaac.

MAIN Hill Inlet at Whitehaven Beach.

Agricultural Overview and Growing Greater Whitsunday Agrifood

Due to the recent well-documented mining “boom” experienced in our region, the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday economy has been viewed as a single industry economy and the awareness at all levels of the significant role that other industries such as agriculture play in the MIW region has been overlooked.

With our proximity to the burgeoning Asian market, equable climate, fertile soils and current agricultural supply chain infrastructure we are well positioned to grow agricultural production in the region and increase our ability to value-add. We believe the key to initiating growth is broader awareness of where we are currently at so that we could then start to examine where we wanted to be.

The MIW Agriculture Overview was launched in August 2016 with promotion via email, newsletter and social media and completed with two main goals:

1. A focus on building awareness of what we grow, where it is grown, what it is worth, so that internal and external stakeholders could gain an understanding of the significant scale of the agricultural industry in our region;
2. An invitation to key government and industry stakeholders to progress a broader MIW Agriculture Growth Plan.

The overview highlighted that our region produces 9.4% of Queensland’s Agricultural Product (by gross value) on 4.8% of the State’s land holding area. It also highlighted the diversity of our region’s agricultural industry by revealing the key role that industries such as beef cattle, sugar cane, broad acre cropping, horticulture and aquaculture play in the region.

Since the launch of the Overview, we have received very positive feedback and with the generous support of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, a steering committee, that includes all three levels of government (RDA MIW, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of State Development, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Mackay Regional Council, Isaac Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council) has been formed. A consultant has been employed to develop what is now known as the Growing Greater Whitsunday Agrifood project.

We are a key member of the steering committee for the Growing Greater Whitsunday Agrifood Project and will also provide the secretariat support as well as some minimal financial support. The project launch in November 2016 included an industry workshop, as we are very keen to ensure that this project’s outcomes are led by industry. The

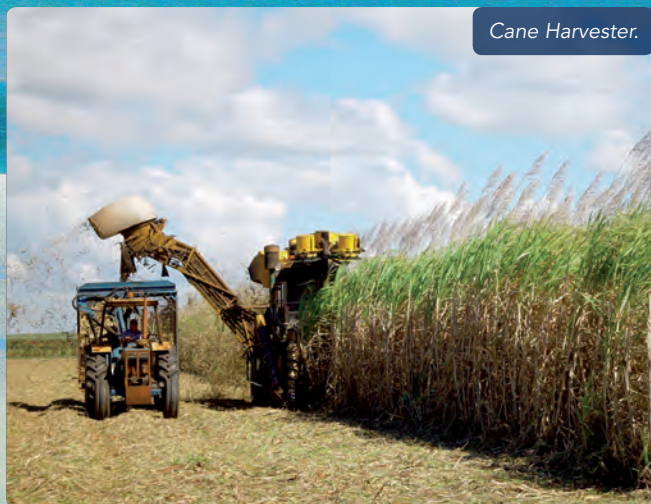
launch was attended by the steering committee, key industry stakeholders and the Management Board of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries which includes the Director-General, Dr Beth Woods.

Whilst the project is still in its infancy it is expected to focus on future agricultural market opportunity and the enablers required to ensure that the agricultural potential of the MIW region is able to be realised. Scenarios will be developed to provide thought leadership around future agrifood investment opportunities and to identify a plan for implementing strategies.

This phase of the project is expected to be delivered by end of June 2017.

Longer term we expect the project will then focus on a broader prioritisation and investment attraction phase including a framework prioritising the potential infrastructure, industry reform and policy solutions to be developed.

Overall, RDA MIW are proud of the role that we have played in initiating a project that will act as a vehicle to uncover the enablers required for growth of agriculture in the Greater Whitsunday region. This is an industry that currently represents a large part of our regional economy and more importantly presents us with a significant future regional economic growth opportunity.



Cane Harvester.



Former MRC councillor Dave Perkins, Member for Capricornia – Michelle Landry, RDA MIW Chair – Graham Smith, RDA MIW CEO – Ben Wearmouth and RDA MIW committee member and CQU Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Pierre Viljoen – in Canberra advocating for the Mackay Regional Sports Precinct.

Images Courtesy of Isaac Regional Council, Mackay Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council.

DRIVING ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION & BUSINESS GROWTH

The key focus of RDA Moreton Bay is to support business growth through clustering and collaboration.

It is essential that RDAs have a high level of awareness and profile across the business community.

RDA Moreton Bay has established collaborative business cluster networks based on demonstrating credibility, trust and value. Representing a significant investment, these networks are briefly outlined below.

Entrepreneurship – Startup Moreton Bay Region

Launched with financial support from Advance Queensland to provide residents with a program to turn their business idea into reality! Delivered by Edgware Creative Entrepreneurship the program includes workshops, mentoring and peer support and created 16 new businesses during 2016.

www.startupmoretonbayregion.net

Chambers 'Alliance'

During 2016, RDA Moreton Bay hosted four forums, bringing together for the first time the Presidents of all nine of the regions Chambers of Commerce and representatives of the two Business & Professional Woman (BPW) Networks. The focus is on collaboration, information and knowledge sharing, resulting in reciprocal memberships, joint events, workshops and a combined membership drive.

Export Network

We lead organisation in bringing together the region's exporters and those considering export market development focusing on:

- Building export capacity and capability
- Sharing experience, knowledge, skills and information through collaboration
- Awareness of overseas business opportunities
- Improving engagement with government agencies and program

In partnership with Austrade, Queensland Government and Moreton Bay Regional Council.

Agri-business – Strawberry Industry

RDA Moreton Bay provided regional leadership to bring together key partners, including Growcom, Strawberry Growers Association, Moreton Bay Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Council and growers representing 50% of the strawberries grown in Queensland to initiate and deliver the Sweetest Jobs Campaign.

The campaign to encourage more local employment during the picking season created 130 new jobs. The project also supported growers and the industry to reduce the impact of the proposed 'Backpackers Tax'.

Project partners are also working with the industry on a number of other projects, including waste plastic reduction, new product development and workforce development.



Moreton Technology Alliance (MTA)

A cluster of technology providers from across the Moreton Bay Region, formed from a network of IT, print and digital media businesses brought together by RDA Moreton Bay.

The businesses have now created their own Incorporated Association and are leading on the future development of the MTA.

www.moretontechnologyalliance.com.au

Regional Strategic Leadership

A key role of RDA Moreton Bay is to provide regional leadership through strategy and advocacy.

The Moreton Bay Region Tertiary Education Strategy was initiated by RDA Moreton Bay to address the below average levels of aspiration and participation in tertiary education across the Moreton Bay Region.

Investment in tertiary education infrastructure lagged significantly behind other regions. The strategy supported by Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) also included an investment attraction, development and financial modelling component and lead to the acquisition of the Mill site by Council for an initial investment of \$50m.

The University of the Sunshine Coast will be the education partner, creating a campus of 10,000 students by 2030. Other related investments in health care, knowledge based business parks and innovation infrastructure will also be included in the overall site development.

The Moreton Bay Region Economic Development Alliance was initiated by RDA Moreton Bay to promote a collaborative approach to economic development, supported by MBRC, Moreton Bay Region Industry & Tourism (MBRIT) and the Qld Government. During 2017, the group will deliver a Regional Advocacy Report with CCIQ and a new Regional Economic Development Strategy.

The Mill site – location of the university.



Narangba innovation Precinct

Formed through a partnership between RDA Moreton Bay and the 200+ businesses located in the Narangba industrial and commercial areas.

The focus is to position the precinct as a world class hub of innovation, supporting advanced and sustainable businesses, exporting globally creating vital employment opportunities.

Initiatives delivered during 2016, included: major re-branding of the business area in to the Narangba innovation Precinct; schools connect program; joint purchasing; accessing government funding for a collaborative workforce development program; the formation of a leadership group; and regular networking forums.

Innovation

During 2015-16, the RDA was a supporter of the region's first innovation awards delivered by Moreton Bay Regional Council.

The aim of the awards is to recognise and reward invention and innovation.

Over 60 businesses entered.

This RDA is a keen supporter of innovation and is seeking to secure investment in incubation, innovation and business accelerator infrastructure and programs. This recently included securing with regional partners, \$500k through the Queensland Government's Advancing Regional Innovation Program.



Narangba innovation precinct sign.

Maximising the RDA Dollar!

RDA Moreton Bay has been successful in securing third party funding to deliver a wide range of range of initiatives, including during 2016:

- Department of Health (Australian Government) to fund a Pine Rivers Private Hospital Feasibility Study and Business Case
- Department of Science, Information Technology & Innovation (Queensland Government) to fund a new business start-up program – Start Up Moreton Bay Region
- MBRC and MBRIT funding contribution for 'Abbeystowe' the Abbey Museum Living Museum project.
- Sweetest Jobs campaign – secured funding from MBRC and Sunshine Coast Council to engage farmers to recruit more 'locals' during the picking season

2016 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast (RDASC) continues to engage with regional leaders and key stakeholders to confirm priorities, establish strategies, initiate action and make a positive difference on the Sunshine Coast.

One such issue is the region's lack of vocational or tertiary training in coding and programming that would enable Sunshine Coast school-leavers to become employment-ready.

By 2025, it is estimated there will be a significant lack of qualified coders and programmers, with employment projected to grow much faster than in other sectors.

After consulting with businesses to better understand industry needs, Introduction to Coding will deliver a six-month TAFE course, supplemented by internships, industry placements and ongoing training and development once a student finds employment.

A key objective is to demonstrate the talent pipeline on the Sunshine Coast to support existing IT ecosystem and attract businesses to the Sunshine Coast.

RDASC has played an important role in identifying inadequacies in the region's transport infrastructure, lobbying for funding to improve the situation, and discussing smarter infrastructure solutions, reducing costs and considering alternate funding methods.

Given its overwhelming reliance on private cars for transport, it is clear that road congestion will undermine the region's ability to reach its full economic potential.

RDASC published a discussion paper in November, to start conversation that leads to action and delivery of transport infrastructure. RDASC is in the process of surveying Sunshine Coast businesses and residents on attitudes towards public transport and played a leadership role in encouraging changes to driver behaviour, including making better use of public transport and adopting innovative measures like organised car-pooling.

Through its business and government networks, RDASC supports and advocates for several "Game Changer" projects, including:

- Sunshine Coast University Hospital, and ripple effect opportunities it brings for SMEs
- International Undersea Broadband Cable
- Sunshine Coast Airport expansion project
- Maroochydore – the Bright City

RDASC has also developed collaborative partnerships with the Sunshine Coast Business Council and the Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance to develop programs to assist small and medium businesses drive economic development.

Through individual leadership, by committee members and staff, and institutional leadership through initiating and delivering projects of real value, RDASC continues to play a strong leadership role in the growth of the region.



Sunshine Coast Airport Terminal.



University of the Sunshine Coast.



Glasshouse Mountains, Pumicestone Passage.



Cranes in skyline.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

RDASC's focus in 2017 will be advocating, facilitating and coordinating with organisations, businesses and all levels of government to provide and facilitate solutions to critical regional issues.

RDASC supports much needed infrastructure improvements for a region that is growing rapidly. According to ABS, the population of the Sunshine Coast will reach 514,000 by 2036 - an increase of more than 60% over the next 20 years.

The infrastructure projects most urgently needed include the North Coast Rail Duplication, Bruce Highway Upgrade (Caloundra Road to Caboolture), Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI), Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion, and greater access to digital communications and infrastructure.

These are important links into nation-building programs and will assist in developing Australia's export markets, improve commuter time and safety, and build a more competitive region that will, in turn, contribute to a more prosperous Australia.

As part of its advocacy for improved transport infrastructure, RDASC is championing the use of public transport over private vehicles in a region where car use is growing faster than total employment (14.7% versus 11%), placing ongoing pressure on road networks.

RDASC is very much aware that government funding for major transport infrastructure is limited and is considering alternate means of funding and partnership solutions beyond the Sunshine Coast region.

During a busy 2017 RDASC will, in partnership with DSITI and councils, play a key role in implementing the Digital Business Capability Scheme, and the Advancing Regional Innovation program in collaboration with more than 20 organisations.

RDASC's primary focus is encouraging businesses, institutions and communities to improve their competitiveness, resilience and self-sufficiency by embracing innovation, entrepreneurship and digital technologies.

By bringing together like minded people and organisations, RDASC will make a difference.

2016 in Review

RDA is proud of its achievements and of those it has supported in 2016. Some of the highlights include; development of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP), collaboration in the Northern RDA Alliance, support to successful applications under funding programs and seeing those supported projects come to fruition.

Regional Collaboration

RDA first initiated the IQ-RAP project in late 2013 and this year has continued as Secretariat. The IQ-RAP project has proven what can be achieved through regional collaboration and a united goal to improve the prosperity of rural and regional Queensland.

Partnership has continued in the Northern RDA Alliance, which comprises of eight RDAs from across Northern Australia. This has provided regular input and support to the Australian Government on the development of policies and programs in Northern Australia.

Regional Funding

RDA has delivered workshops on project development, grant writing, statistics collection and provided support to councils and other stakeholders that sought advice to make stronger applications for Australian Government funding programs, such as the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) and the Bridge Renewal Program. In the final round of NSRF, Burke Shire Council received funding of \$994,619 for the Burketown Wharf Precinct. RDA also supported successful regional applications to the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

Since 2011, the Committee has supported 13 successful applications to receive \$30.5m in grants for projects valued at \$73.5m.

RDA plays key role in driving longer term planning and funding for regional Queensland roads

The IQ-RAP is the first of its type in Australia in terms of scale - covering 82% of Queensland (that is 19% of Australia) and collaboration, with 49 funding partners involved in its development, including; 33 local governments, five Regional Development Australia committees from Townsville and North West Queensland, Far North Queensland and Torres Strait, Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday, Fitzroy Central West and Darling Downs South West, eight Regional Roads and Transport Groups (RRTGs) and RACQ.

RDA considered the concept of such a plan in 2013 after the success of the Bruce Highway Action Plan in securing nearly \$9 billion in funding. RDA proceeded to hold forums in collaboration with the four other RDA committees in Longreach and Mount Isa to engage with local governments, RRTGs and other transport infrastructure stakeholders to discuss how they could collaborate to develop stronger cases for investment in regional road infrastructure and achieve more reliable and consistent funding over a longer period. At the request of the RRTGs and their local governments, RDA also took on the role of Secretariat to lead the project management.

The vision of the IQ-RAP is to increase the quality and accessibility of the road network to maximise the economic prosperity of inland Queensland. The IQ-RAP identifies and prioritises road upgrades on the 16,000 kilometres of strategic freight and tourism road network in the area west of the Bruce Highway and outside South East Queensland over the next 18 years. The plan has identified that over 3,000 kilometres of road and more than 300 bridges require upgrading.

The 33 local governments have supported this initiative financially, with advice and expertise. The IQ-RAP has also drawn upon data and plans from RRTGs, Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and the Australian Government. With the assistance of the Harrison Infrastructure Group, the IQ-RAP was developed using an established road planning approach and prioritisation methodology, including the use of multi criteria analysis that reviewed economic value, safety, strategic intent, access and social value.

Since the IQ-RAP was launched in early 2016, Working Group members have briefed more than 150 parliamentarians and department executives and key industry stakeholders – many of whom have provided letters of support.

In 2016 more than \$300million of investment commitments have been made to priority roads identified in the IQ-RAP. In early 2017 the IQ-RAP will be updated along with the development of an overarching strategy to develop the inland Queensland road network. RDA will continue to work with project partners to advance support for developing the inland Queensland road network.

For more information, visit www.rdanwq.org.au/iq-rap



Tec-NQ House – Received RDA Funding (Jason Ramsden, RDA CEO Glenys Schuntner, Heather Rice, Sherelle Ballie).



Beef production is one of the main exports from the region.



Mount Isa Mines is one of the biggest mining operations in Australia.



Townsville has Australia's largest Army base – Lavarack Barracks.



Wallaman Falls west of Ingham is one of many tourist attractions in the region.

2017 – the year ahead

RDA will continue to facilitate strategic collaboration and advocacy to develop the long term sustainability of the Townsville and North West Queensland region.

In its role as Secretariat of the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) project, RDA will advance the project in stage two including an update to content and presentation materials, building the economic case for further investment and on-going advocacy.

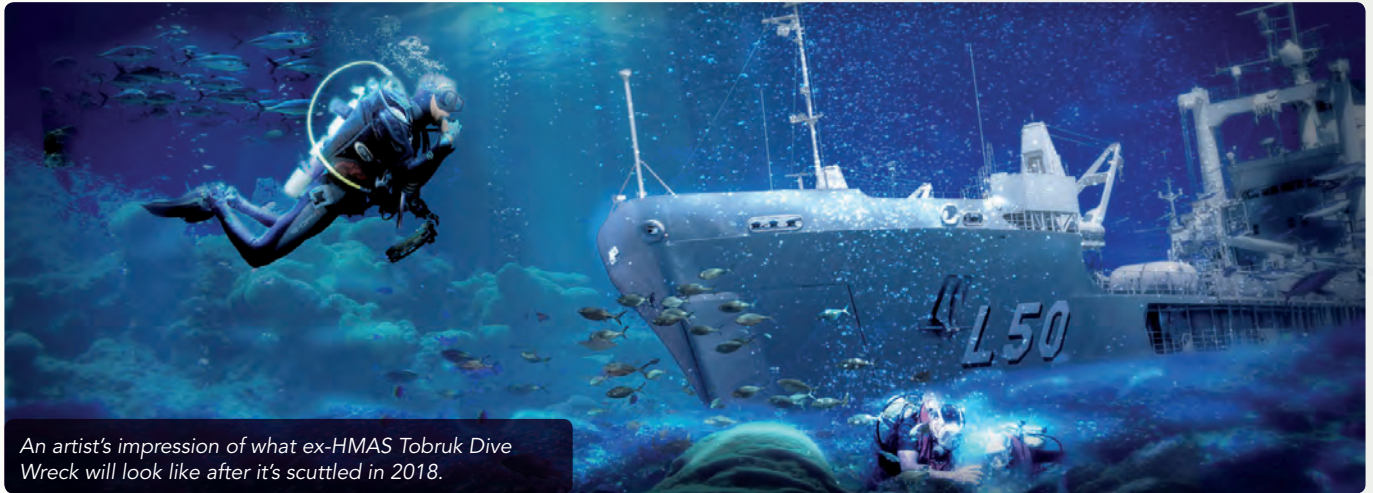
RDA will continue to engage with its 15 local governments and community representatives and provide workshops, advice and other support to develop strong applications to the new Building Better Regions Fund.

As in previous years, RDA will continue to engage in cross-regional economic development related committees and consultations to support a collaborative and united approach.

RDA will also continue its collaboration with the Northern RDA Alliance on key initiatives and supporting the Australian Government on implementing the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia.

Marine research on the Great Barrier Reef.





An artist's impression of what ex-HMAS Tobruk Dive Wreck will look like after it's scuttled in 2018.

HMAS Tobruk Secured

Regional Development Australia Wide Bay-Burnett (RDA WBB) played an integral role in the Australia-wide battle to secure the decommissioned navy vessel ex-HMAS Tobruk to create a world-class dive wreck in waters off the Queensland coast. For more than two years RDA WBB lobbied all levels of government and provided economic evidence of the benefits of securing the vessel to boost tourism in Bundaberg and Fraser Coast regions.

Chair, Bill Trevor OAM, said the heavy landing ship would complement the region's exceptional marine tourism assets including world-heritage listed Fraser Island, Hervey Bay's whale watching and Bundaberg's iconic Mon Repos turtle hatchery.

"Securing the Tobruk is a major achievement for the region and will allow us to celebrate its proud military history and all of those who served upon her. Both Bundaberg and Fraser Coast Regional Council worked together to commit \$1 million each to the project which showed strong regional collaboration."

HMAS Tobruk L50 amphibious heavy lift ship saw 34 years of service from 1980 to 2015 and was deployed on 26 major operations including the Middle East, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Bougainville, East Timor and the Philippines. It has now been towed to the Port of Bundaberg and will undergo cleaning and preparation for her scuttling towards the end of 2017, creating employment for up to 50 contractors.

The ship is named for the Siege of Tobruk during the Second World War, when German and Italian forces laid siege to the north African port for 241 days.

RDA WBB Executive Officer Scott Rowe said the next phase of the project was to secure support and funding to create an onshore Tobruk Military Museum and Fishing Hall of Fame.



Above RDA Wide Bay Burnett helped in securing ex-HMAS Tobruk to create a world-class dive wreck in the waters off the Queensland coast.



Below Spectators at HMAS Tobruk's arrival at the Port of Bundaberg.



Federal Member for Wide Bay, Llew O'Brien and Fraser Coast Mayor Chris Loft at the opening of the \$2M Gutty Creek Bridge funded under the Bridges Renewal Programme.

Project Officer Nicole Puli
championing the
RDA Jobs Initiative.



Job Matching Service Launched

Employers and jobseekers now have a new tool to help find the best candidates for jobs across the Wide Bay Burnett region.

RDA Jobs, an online service where employers post jobs and candidates are automatically matched through their qualifications, skills and experience, has been launched by Regional Development Australia Wide Bay Burnett.

RDA WBB Executive Officer Scott Rowe said with unemployment one of the major challenges facing the region, the online tool would benefit both employers looking for the best candidates and jobseekers eager to find work.

"The online RDA Jobs initiative focuses on the major employment industries of retail and hospitality, agriculture, resources, construction and transport and logistics," Mr Rowe said. "Jobseekers are encouraged to go to the site, complete their free online profile and when a job is posted the site automatically matches the most suitable candidates and sends them an email and SMS notifying them of the job."

"If they are interested in the role then RDA Jobs notifies the employer who can then initiate the formal interview process. It ensures employers are getting the best suited local candidates and jobseekers are being advised of jobs they are interested in."

Mr Rowe said the job matching and profiling service could also be used to identify skills shortages and better prepare and upskill employees for real local jobs.

"If there are jobs listed and our local candidates don't have the skills or qualifications the employer is looking for, we can pass this information onto education and training institutions to help better prepare jobseekers in the future."

"Further, if there are major infrastructure, construction or resource sector projects outside of the region, RDA WBB will have a ready database to promote to new employers and ensure jobseekers across the Wide Bay Burnett are top of mind for these roles."

The initiative is a free service for both employers posting jobs and employees to update their profiles and is available at www.rdajobs.com.au

Economic Development Forum

October 2016 marked the 3rd Annual Economic Development Forum, jointly hosted by the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC) in partnership with Regional Development Australia (Wide Bay Burnett) and the Department of State Development as part of their 2016 Major Project Series.

More than 150 regional stakeholders attended this year's Forum which provided local businesses with the latest information about priority initiatives including contract and supply opportunities associated with the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Resort Development. A number of regional industries from across the Wide Bay-Burnett region showcased their businesses and discussed how they have capitalise on opportunities available in the region and, in doing so, reinforced how this region is on the cusp of change.

The forum helps local businesses gain the maximum possible benefit from major projects taking place in the region. It's a chance for local businesses to hear about real opportunities for securing work contracts, learn how other businesses in the region have achieved success and hear of priority projects being delivered regionally.

The Forum also heard from each of the regions regional councils where the mayors highlighted their regional and local priority projects that will deliver economic growth and prosperity for the Wide Bay Burnett region.

Keynote speaker for the event was the Hon Fiona Nash, Deputy Leader of the Federal National Party, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Regional Communications, Minister for Local Government and Territories. Minister Nash spoke about the contribution of regional Australia to the economy and provided information on government programs such as the Building Better Regions Fund and Regional Jobs and Investment Package.



Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Council (WBBROC) Members at the 3rd Annual Economic Development Forum.

L to R

Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey,
South Burnett Mayor Keith Campbell,
Fraser Coast Mayor Chris Loft,
North Burnett Mayor Rachel Chambers,
Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien MP,
Senator Fiona Nash, Minister for Regional Development
Gympie Mayor Mick Curran, and
State Member for Gympie Tony Perrett MP.

FAST FACTS

In Queensland, there are 12 RDA Committees servicing over 1.7m km² from the Torres Strait to the metropolitan areas of the South East corner

Queensland is the most decentralised state in Australia, with more than 50% of its 4.8m occupants, living outside the greater metropolitan Brisbane area, unlike the rest of the highly urbanised Australia

Case in point, the Queensland GSP (Gross State Product) for 2014/2015 was \$308bn

The size of each individual RDA region ranges in area from 1,400 km² to larger than Victoria and Tasmania combined

To get an understanding of the tyranny of distance for both RDA committee members and staff here are a few interesting facts:

1. Cairns is closer to Port Moresby than to Brisbane
2. Birdsville is closer to Adelaide than to Brisbane
3. Mt Isa is closer to Darwin than to Brisbane
4. Brisbane is closer to Sydney than anywhere north of Rockhampton
5. You cannot drive in many parts of Queensland during the wet season
6. The majority of flights in Queensland do not go east-west

So for many, driving is the only form of transport!



RDA Brisbane	Pop. 1,146,787	1 LGA	1,338 km ²
RDA Gold Coast	Pop. 528,000	1 LGA	1,402 km ²
RDA Moreton Bay	Pop. 410,000	1 LGA	2,000 km ²
RDA Logan & Redlands	Pop. 425,500	2 LGAs	1,490 km ²
RDA Sunshine Coast	Pop. 331,000	2 LGAs	3,200 km ²
RDA Mackay Isaac Whitsunday	Pop. 171,000	3 LGAs	90,000 km ²
RDA Ipswich & West Moreton	Pop. 266,000	4 LGAs	13,000 km ²
RDA Wide Bay Burnett	Pop. 293,500	6 LGAs	48,600 km ²
RDA Darling Downs and South West	Pop. 268,000	10 LGAs	400,000 km ²
RDA Fitzroy and Central West	Pop. 235,000	12 LGAs	496,000 km ²
RDA Townsville and North West	Pop. 272,500	15 LGAs	449,191 km ²
RDA Far North Queensland and Torres Strait	Pop. 280,000	21 LGAs	275,000 km ²

BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND

This program provides funding for infrastructure projects and community investment that will create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future. Both streams will open on 18 January 2017. The Infrastructure Projects Stream will close at 5pm local time on 28 February 2017 and the Community Investments Stream will close at 5pm local time on 31 March 2017.

The \$297.7 million Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future.

The program will fund projects in regional Australia outside the major capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra. A mapping tool is available to assist applicants determine the eligibility of their project location.

There are two streams of funding available under the program:

- Infrastructure Projects Stream
- Community Investments Stream

Please refer to the Program Guidelines for information on eligibility and assessment criteria and how to apply. Other Program documentation to assist applicants is listed under Key documents below.

Infrastructure Projects Stream Program Guidelines and Factsheets

Infrastructure Projects Stream Program Guidelines - PDF; 505.27 KB

Infrastructure Projects Stream Program Guidelines - DOCX; 258.84 KB

Infrastructure Projects Stream Factsheet - PDF; 188.9 KB

Community Investments Stream Program Guidelines and Factsheets

Community Investments Stream Program Guidelines - PDF; 498.21 KB

Community Investments Stream Program Guidelines - DOCX; 261.02 KB

Community Investments Stream Factsheet - PDF; 198.93 KB

To be eligible you must be a legal entity, have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be one of the following entities:

- a local governing body as defined by the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.
- a not for profit organisation (the Infrastructure Projects Stream requires you to have been established for at least two years).

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- a for profit organisation
- an individual, partnership or trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- a Commonwealth, state or territory government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- a university, technical college, school or hospital
- a Regional Development Australia Committee.



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