

## **RDA BRISBANE – QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE REGION (JANUARY TO MARCH 2018)**

RDA Brisbane (RDAB) is pleased to present this Quarterly Report to the region. The RDAs are operating under a new Charter from which the 6 outcome themes (below) are derived, so it is against these areas which we highlight our key activities and achievements for the March Quarter.

### **OUTCOME THEME 1    Increased economic opportunities and investment in Your Region**

*Identify economic development opportunities that leverage private and public sector investment*

As a Foundation Partner in the RED Toolbox, RDAB promoted and provided connections for engagement in the RED Toolbox and its iterations, as a collaboration tool for joining up sectors with regions to stimulate economic opportunities, investment and jobs of the future.

- RDAB hosted a 3 hour “Can it work?” brainstorming session for councils and regions, to determine how new digital decision solution tools, including **blockchain based governance**, verification and legal instruments can work for councils and regional organisations. The purpose of the session was to explore common issues and problems that councils face where blockchain technology might help. The session recognised the general lack of understanding of blockchain, and the impact that “bitcoin” and other speculative cryptocurrencies has had on the understanding of blockchain at this time. RDA’s interest in introducing this technology as a solution to government and sector issues is to leverage public and private sector investment, and help to position Brisbane as a leading region in Distributed Ledger Technologies
- RDAB hosted a “**Future of Work and Jobs**” meeting with the National Australia Bank’s EGM Global Institutional Banking from Sydney and Digital Business insights (DBI); discussed the future of work and jobs and the development of an ED Toolbox (education), and the application of the RED Toolbox in the work he is doing as a member of the Federal Government Small Business Digital Task force.

RDAB connected potential investors with innovative businesses as part of our partnership in the EXPRESSWAY network

- RDAB hosted the March **EXPRESSWAY network forum** at The Precinct – the Queensland Government’s innovation hub in Fortitude Valley. It was attended by over 50 people and featured the topic: “Safe sailing in turbulent business waters - getting great outcomes despite the storms” with informative presentations and case studies. Innovative businesses and high-growth-potential startups are welcome to join EXPRESSWAY, which is a partnership between TAFE Queensland, Microsoft Innovation Centre and RDA Brisbane to encourage collaboration and connection to government support programs and investors.

Working with the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) and Spatial Industry Business Association (SIBA), RDAB helped to promote education and career development in the burgeoning spatial technologies industry

- RDAB is represented on a national leadership group to advance the “education” pillar of a strategy to build education, training and capacity building within the **2026 Spatial**

**Industry Transformation and Growth Agenda Action Plan.** The Action Plan aims to foster the skills in this important growth industry for Australia and the RDA network can assist with promoting this sector in the regions.

RDAB connected Alibaba Global Partner (Brisbane based) with some of the SEQ RDAs, and RDA Darling Downs & South West ran a “**Connecting businesses with global buyers via Alibaba.com**” seminar in Toowoomba (RDAB hosted such an event in December). Both our RDAs promoted an Alibaba Dream Trip to China to discover the internal workings of the world’s largest e-commerce platform operator.

Hosted **SEGRA**’s National Steering Committee meeting, with members travelling from throughout Australia, which organises the annual SEGRA conference which in 2018 will be held in Mackay.

Met with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure & Planning’s METS team as part of a consultation on future business development initiatives in the **Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) sector**, and in particular how business, research, education, training organisations, resource companies, peak industry bodies and all levels of government can improve working together to increase productivity and enhance the innovation potential of Queensland’s METS companies. One specific strategy of the Queensland METS 10 year Roadmap and Action Plan is increasing collaborative business opportunities, and previous analytical work undertaken by the Department indicate there are numerous METS companies located in SEQ with potential to form clusters of expertise. RDA shared its TCI knowledge about clusters internationally and offered its expertise in initiating METS cluster development in SEQ.

Participated in the **Commonwealth Games Embracing 2018** meeting, convened by Dept of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure & Planning, and briefed members about the Queensland Collaboration and Showcase project.

## **OUTCOME THEME 2    Increased trade and jobs creation.**

*Connect the region with industry sectors, international trade partners, financial markets, regional entrepreneurs and business leaders to attract investors to explore new opportunities to grow local jobs.*

In this quarter RDAB worked extensively on developing a **Commonwealth Games Trade 2018 project to showcase Brisbane and all of Queensland’s regions**, their productive and innovative export industries, and projects seeking investment. This initiative, developed in conjunction with Economic Development Australia, will leverage the Queensland economic development practitioners and Queensland RDA networks and expertise to promote and showcase Queensland’s regional industry strengths and investment opportunities to Commonwealth nations, and what we are best at in terms of our export industries and businesses. The elements of the project are:

- The Queensland and Commonwealth Collaboration and Showcase event including workshops and a Networking Luncheon & Showcase, 12 April at the Southport Yacht Club
- A Queensland regional prospectus “Queensland’s Regions Trading Globally”
- A Queensland Collaboration Trade Portal featuring Queensland’s key manufacturers, producers and services

This will provide a lasting legacy to boosting Queensland’s trade and investment.

Leveraging RDA's partnership with the **TCI Network**, RDAB is fostering industry cluster development, support and connection measures to make growth industries more competitive and jobs generating, such as SEQ food and Digital Ledger Technologies (DLT)

- RDAB participated in Brisbane Marketing's **Future Food Initiative** launched by the Lord Mayor, an industry development platform to advance South East Queensland's capability to build, scale and grow local food ventures. The event featured diverse discussions and enabled attendees to preview upcoming programs and events to accelerate their food business to the next level. RDAB participated on a discussion panel and offered expertise and knowledge on the success of Global Clusters and how they are part of an emerging global food trend in Europe.
- RDA connected with the **NSW Government's Jobs for NSW** at the instigation of the Department of Industry, Innovation & Science, to assist with visioning for Sydney and sharing expertise on clusters.
- RDAB participated in the Brisbane part of the **Earth Observation Industry Mission to Australia** hosted by the Cooperative Research Centre for the Spatial Industries (CRCSI) and the European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC). (Two other events were held in Canberra and Sydney.) The week was organised to bring Earth Observation specialists from the European Union and Australia together with the aim of teaming them up to bid for Horizon2020 funding.  
There is over €6 million in Horizon2020 funding available for Australian-European collaborations, and the hope is that the visit would provide the impetus for our two regions to build partnerships and successful bids. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in networking events, briefings and introductions to remote sensing companies, investors and customers and discover more about Copernicus and Horizon2020 EU-AU partnership opportunities.
- RDAB will assist with event logistics and organisation to deliver the TCI Network Oceania 2018 **Australasian Cluster Conference** on the Sunshine Coast from 5 to 8 June

Along with \*MTPConnect, the Translational Research Institute and Life Sciences Qld Ltd, RDAB supported CSIRO's Data61 [Riabit.net](http://Riabit.net) special event at QLD Parliament House through promotion to its networks, where over 170 students from QLD tertiary institutions attended a special **speed-networking for jobs with employers in the agtech, foodtech, medtech and biotech** sectors which RDA helped to promote to. The students are undergrads and postgrads with skills in science, technology, business and/or marketing.

As Foundation Partner in the Export Toolbox, RDAB provided connections and promoted the online platform as a means of showcasing Australian industry and connecting them to export opportunities

- As part of the Commonwealth Games Trade 2018 project, RDAB arranged for the development by Digital Business insights (DBi) of the **Queensland Collaboration Trade Portal**, derived from the Export Toolbox, where nearly 2,000 Queensland top and exporting manufacturers, producers and services will be profiled to overseas trade delegates visiting for the Commonwealth Games. The Queensland RDAs identified additional businesses in their regions to add to the portal.

RDAB promoted the **Small Business Association of Australia's SME's trade mission to India 2018** – where they are seeking entrepreneurs, business owners and those wanting better opportunities to grow or expand their businesses overseas. We also promoted their business networking event on The Biz Buzz.

RDAB connected the new **South Pacific Business Women in Network** with local business networks and RDAs, along with PIPSO (Pacific Island Private Sector Organisation), a Fiji based organisation, with a view to fostering international connections for trade and investment.

### **OUTCOME THEME 3 Cooperative effort with all levels of government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders leads to improved economic development outcomes.**

*Develop and maintain positive, collaborative, working relationships and partnerships with all levels of government, industry, community and other regional stakeholders which address identified gaps or needs in economic development activity.*

The **Commonwealth Games Trade 2018 Queensland Collaboration and Showcase project** (stated above) is a collaboration with the Queensland Government with participation from all levels of government, industry, business and the Queensland RDAs and Economic Development Australia, to showcase Queensland regions' export capabilities to global Commonwealth markets, and strengthen collaboration among Queensland economic developers to increase trade and investment opportunities.

Brisbane West Chamber of Commerce is a large 'regional' chamber with over 800 members – RDAB partners in key events and **The Biz Buzz Facebook page** to enhance business growth and profitability

- RDAB promoted and participated in the BWCC's "**The Pitch 2.0**" event, sponsored by News Corp, where a number of SMEs pitched their business challenges to a panel of business experts

RDA Brisbane is a Supporter of the **Brisbane Small Business Expo**, being held on 11 May – a B2B and B2C marketplace for small and micro businesses to connect with buyers, investors and customers along with connections to Government programs and advisory services. Connected the organiser with potential partners and other supporters along with promoting the event through RDA Brisbane networks. Also made connections for the organiser with RDAs and other stakeholders in Gold Coast, Logan & Redlands, Moreton Bay and Toowoomba regions for future expos to be held in those regions.

RDAB used our extensive networks, knowledge and influence to make **strategic connections** for and between business/industry, the 3 levels of government, regional and national stakeholders to foster innovation and economic development outcomes; in addition to those mentioned above, we also:

- Connected **Data61 with QUT's The Cube** ([thecube.qut.edu.au](http://thecube.qut.edu.au) - one of the world's largest digital display spaces). Gavin Winter had developed a spatial and visual showcase of SEQ's smart sectors using the QLD Globe platform for the G20 in 2014.
- Connected the board of the Global Congress on Manufacturing and Management (GCMM) with the **Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre** re the 14<sup>th</sup> GCMM conference being held in Brisbane in 2018

- RDAB visited a northside Brisbane manufacturer which is interested in supplying to the **Defence Sector**; also on the visit was Defence Industries Qld (a division of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure & Planning); connected them to the RED Toolbox and business networks.

#### **OUTCOME THEME 4 Achieve Government program objectives.**

*Assist in the delivery of Commonwealth programs including public and private sector decentralisation.*

RDA is keen to participate in the next round of the Federal Government's **ASBAS Digital Solutions Program**, including as a vehicle to continue Brisbane's landmark CLICK! Digital event which provides small businesses and startups with practical skills and knowledge to harness digital technologies. Regardless of which organisation wins the tender, with our extensive experience and connections as a result of running CLICK! Digital for 5 years, RDAB will be making approaches to participate in delivery of the program.

RDAB completed the **2017 CLICK!** Startup Report and acquitted the Queensland Government's Startup funding. The Startup activity achieved some great results and feedback from the 200+ startup and new-to-business people that attended the 2017 CLICK! event. We also completed a Snapshot Report on the event; the CLICK! 2017 Digital & Business Development event was held 1-2 September 2017 in which the Greater Brisbane Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS program) was a partner and ran business development workshops for SMEs and startups.

RDAB fostered **Australian Government Industry Growth Centre (IGCs)** connections with local and regional businesses, to strengthen these growth industries in growing the economy. The IGCs have been invited to exhibit at the RDA's Commonwealth Games 2018 event in April.

#### **OUTCOME THEME 5 Maximise access to Government programs and grants.**

*Promote and disseminate information on Commonwealth policies and grant programs and support community stakeholders in Your Region to develop project proposals to access funding.*

RDAB promotes Government grants and initiatives in its bi-monthly **e-Linkages newsletters** and with special **News Alerts** to its database

Participated in the suburban (Red Hill and Coorparoo) **Lord Mayor's Small Business Forums** where RDAB promoted all of Government programs and initiatives/information to assist small business

RDAB coordinates the **SEQ GIBIN (Government Industry Business Information Network)** to connect businesses with Government and other programs, initiatives and events using a multiplier network of over 200 representatives from government and business support agencies. Information on government grants, initiatives and events were promoted by RDAB through the GIBIN for dissemination through their business networks, and on the joint RDA Brisbane/Brisbane West Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, The Biz Buzz. 7 email alerts were sent to the network and 11 posts made on The Biz Buzz Facebook page

RDAB also maintains its CLICK! and RDA Brisbane **Facebook page and Twitter account**, where further promotion of RDA activities and Government programs take place.

In March 2018, the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, announced the opening for initial applications to the \$272.2 million **Regional Growth Fund**. RDA Brisbane issued a News Alert disseminating the grant information to stakeholders on the database, advertising on the website and posts on social media. The Regional Growth Fund will provide grants of \$10 million or more for major transformational projects which support long-term economic growth and create jobs in regions undergoing structural adjustment. RDA Brisbane ran a briefing session for potential applicants which was attended by 20 applicants from Brisbane, Gold Coast, Logan & Redlands and Ipswich & West Moreton regions. Further sessions were planned for early April and follow up meetings planned.

#### **OUTCOME THEME 6 Advice supports development outcomes.**

*Provide evidence-based advice to the Commonwealth on critical regional development issues; and information on regional activities and competitive advantages to all levels of government, industry, business and community sectors.*

RDAB provides advice to Government about strategic opportunities to position Brisbane, Australia and its regions to connect with global markets, such as

- Advice to the Dept of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) through information obtained from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) that **11% of the 650 European Union clusters would like to do business with Australia**. There is potential to connect Australian clusters with this opportunity and RDAs to be leveraged to interface with regional clusters. DIIS is following this up through a visit to Australia by the ECCP. RDAB would be keen on facilitating connections would could potentially involve RDAs across Australia.

RDAB promotes and shares information through social media and in our e-Linkages newsletter about **Brisbane's economic performance and highlights** – we primarily share information from Brisbane City Council and Brisbane Marketing with our regional stakeholders, such as the Brisbane Report (January, 2018 predictions)

RDAB provided input into relevant Government or industry consultation sessions, surveys, inquiries, advisory groups

- Participated in the **CCIQ Pulse** survey
- Digital Brisbane, in partnership with QUT's Chair in Digital Economy, have launched what's thought to be a world-first **digital confidence survey** to find out how confident SMEs are in the digital age. The findings will help to build on Digital Brisbane's offering and inform government policy. RDAB extensively promoted this survey through our networks to get maximum participation.

RDAB participates in activities that promote or recognise the RDA's role in regional economic development activities

- As part of the Commonwealth Games Trade 2018 Collaboration and Showcase project, RDA Brisbane coordinated the development of the **Queensland's Regions Trading Globally** publication, a trade and investment prospectus with input from Queensland's 12 RDAs which features 2 pages per region highlighting their key or emerging export sectors with growth potential, and innovative industries and opportunities for investment.
- RDAB participated in a meeting of the **Queensland RDA Executive Officers** in Toowoomba where we met our new Minister, the Hon Dr John McVeigh, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government along with his adviser on regional development. RDAB presented to the group about progress with the Commonwealth Games Queensland Collaboration and Showcase project and encouraged full participation, to make it a truly Queensland wide regional collaboration and showcase event and activity.

## GOVERNANCE

**Dr Patricia Rowe has been appointed as RDAB's Chair** by the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government. Dr McVeigh said, "I welcome the appointment of Dr Patricia Rowe as Chair of RDA Brisbane. Having served as a committee member and then acting Chair of RDA Brisbane, Dr Rowe brings with her considerable knowledge of the local region and strong leadership. This makes her the perfect candidate to lead RDA Brisbane".

Our School Based Trainee, Madisson, has completed her **School Based Traineeship** with RDA Brisbane over the past 2 years, attaining her Certificate III in Business. In that time Madisson has gained skills in event coordination, databases, general office and financial administration. We wish Madisson well in her future career endeavours.

Shaleen Wharton, our Regional Development Support and Event Convenor, has gained her **Diploma in Event Management** with skills gained on the job from her extensive work in convening the CLICK! Digital events and other RDA events over the past 5 years. Sha also organises the logistics for the TCI Cluster Conferences that have been held in Sydney, Adelaide and this year on the Sunshine Coast.

RDAB staff participated in an **EDA Professional Development** webinar, where the Economic Development Manager of the Sunshine Coast Council and an economic development consultant presented about measuring success and outcomes in economic development

We completed and submitted RDAB's 6 monthly 'interim' Business Plan and Budget and six monthly report and acquittal for July-Dec 2017.