

## **RDA BRISBANE – QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE REGION (APRIL TO JUNE 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 means of showcasing Australian industry, connecting them to trade and investment opportunities and collaboration platform for joining up sectors with regions to stimulate economic 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 were profiled to overseas trade delegates visiting for the Commonwealth Games. The portal is a legacy item where important producers can be added to the showcase for access by any potential trade partners.
- RDAB hosted AMCHAM, Malaysia and Indonesian international business councils/chambers in a demonstration of the **RED Toolbox export collaboration groups** with India as an example. Groups have been set up with India, at the instigation of the Australia India Business Council, to enable cross-country collaboration on Energy, Water & Environment, Advanced Manufacturing, Smart Cities Infrastructure, Mining Equipment & Technology Services, Food & Agriculture

RDAB connected potential investors and business support with innovative businesses as part of our partnership in the **EXPRESSWAY network** (along with TAFE QLD and the Microsoft Innovation Centre); monthly networking forums were held in April, May and June at the Microsoft Innovation Centre with collective attendances of over 100 people.

RDAB participated in a number of pertinent **forums**:

- Qld Government Digital Disruption Series: Thought Provocation Event – **Blockchain** which was hosted by the Chief Information Officer, and was attended by CIOs from most Government Departments. The use of burgeoning use blockchain technology was discussed, with presentations from Consensus and Civic Ledger.
- **Future Business Council’s roundtable discussion on The Next Boom Report**: How will Australia prosper in the 21st century? The report pulled together data from across different sectors and regions to show just how rapidly markets and consumers are changing and the significant investment and business potential that these changes create. Australia’s future prosperity will be driven by different industries and business models than in the past. There was discussion on how we are placed to leverage the benefits of these new opportunities
- Workshop on **Investment Attraction and Queensland’s Growth**, hosted by Gadens Lawyers and attended by public and private sector representatives; RDAB drew attention to its “Queensland’s Regions Trading Globally” and “Queensland Commonwealth Collaboration Portal” resources

- Economic Development Australia (EDA) State Practitioners' meeting, to organise professional development opportunities for economic developers across the State

We hosted **SEGRA's** Steering Committee meeting to arrange its annual SEGRA conference which will be held in Mackay in October 2018

Participated in the **GC2018 Commonwealth Games Trade and Investment program** which ran parallel with the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast: attended the Business Advantages Event and Tourism Investment Lunch (further details under Outcome Theme 2).

## **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.*

RDAB arranged 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 and the Office of the Commonwealth Games, leveraged 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 were:

- The Queensland and Commonwealth Collaboration and Showcase event including workshops of economic development practitioners 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

There were over 120 attendees from throughout Queensland including the Queensland Premier and Minister for Agriculture.

Feedback from workshop delegates included a need for shared and better understanding of Queensland's regions' competitive attributes and industrial/sectoral strengths (including a better understanding of competitor regions/businesses on the world stage) and more granular information on investment projects from each region for use at trade promotions and events and investment attraction activities. RDA is addressing this in the next quarter.

Leveraging RDA's partnership with the **TCI Network Oceania**, RDAB is fostering industry cluster development, support and connection measures to make growth industries more competitive and jobs generating.

RDAB partnered with TCI Network Oceania in the delivery of its **2018 cluster event: 'Why Clusters Matter – Growing Regional Trade & Investment through Clusters'**, which was held on the Sunshine Coast in June. International cluster experts from 4 countries came to share their experiences in cluster development, management, measurement and internationalisation with delegates from around Australia and the Oceania region.

Delegates also had the opportunity to visit some of the Sunshine Coasts' high value industry clusters including FAN (Food and Agribusiness Network) cluster members; Sports, and emerging Health and Wellbeing and Medical cluster and precinct as well as attend workshops on Clusters 101 & Beyond and Measuring the Economic Impact of Cluster Programs on the final 2 days of the program.

A special highlight of this year's event was the announcement of 4 winners of Australia's first national cluster funding programme by Assistant Minister for Science, Jobs and Innovation, Senator the Hon. Zed Seselja. This funding program is an initiative of FIAL (Food Innovation Australia Ltd Industry Growth Centre).

RDAB's Regional Development Coordinator, Tracy Scott-Rimington, is also Chair of the TCI Network Oceania Chapter. She was invited to participate in an **EU Asia engagement forum in Transylvania** in May, where she presented on Australian clusters and participated in a cluster matchmaking event. She also promoted Queensland trade and investment opportunities via distributing copies of our "Queensland's Regions Trading Globally" publication.

### **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) was a collaboration with the Queensland Government with participation from Queensland local councils, Industry Growth Centres, Chambers of Commerce, innovative businesses 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.

RDAB was a Supporter and Exhibitor at the **Brisbane Small Business Expo** 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. 800 people attended and there were 200 exhibitors. The event had Generated Solid Sales Leads of \$2.2 million. We 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 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 provided FIAL with cluster connections in Europe on food waste, utilising a TCI relationship with the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP).

RDAB attended the **Myriad 2018 Festival**, Australia's leading tech innovation festival, bringing together start-ups, investors and innovators from around Australia and the world. RDAB promoted the EXPRESSWAY network via the Advance Queensland exhibit.

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

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

RDA is confirmed as a partner in Business Station's winning tender to deliver the Federal Government's **Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) Digital Solutions Program** from 1 July for 3 years. We will deliver the program in Queensland - Southern, Central and Whitsunday – and utilise the RDA network to reach regional small businesses. Delivery of the program will be via one-on-one advice, workshops and webinars.

RDAB invited the **Australian Government Industry Growth Centres (IGCs)** to showcase their growth industry strengths at the RDA's Commonwealth Games Trade 2018 event in April – 3 IGCs exhibited: FIAL, MTP Connect and NERA.

#### **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 promoted Government grants and initiatives via the GIBIN, alerts to the database, social media and at the Lord Mayor's Small Business Forums.

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.

- RDAB arranged and chaired a GIBIN meeting, hosted by ASIC, which was attended by 27 people from 20 government and other business agencies. A post-meeting survey was conducted and 100% of survey respondents rated the GIBIN meeting very useful or extremely useful and over 90% formed new connections or collaborations in relation to clients, to promote/utilise programs/initiatives, to share information/intelligence/discuss common issues, and for future events. 100% of respondents gained new information as a result of attending the meeting.
- A new GIBIN member, Australian Border Force, was welcomed at the meeting.

RDAB also maintains its CLICK! and RDA Brisbane **social media accounts**, where further promotion of RDA activities and Government programs take place.

RDAB ran an additional 2 briefing sessions for potential applicants for the Australian Government's **Regional Growth Fund**. 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. While projects could be located in capital cities, their benefits must relate to regional areas. Attendees were from Brisbane, Darling Downs & South West

and Logan & Redlands regions. Follow up meetings and phone support were provided to a number of applicants from outside Brisbane.

## **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 provided advice to Government about strategic opportunities to position Brisbane, Australia and its regions to connect with global markets, such as

- Providing input to the Dept of Industry, Innovation and Science in relation to the **SME Export Hubs initiative** announced in the Federal Budget – a consultation session was included in the TCI Oceania cluster event on the Sunshine Coast in June. Follow up consultations with RDAB were held by phone with officials in Canberra. The \$20 million Export Hubs Initiative will help Australian businesses to grow, export and increase local and regional jobs. It will help the private sector develop local business hubs. Through the hubs, local and regional businesses will learn from each other to support their export growth.

RDAB promotes and shares information through social media 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

- Completed a 'forward-scan' survey to inform the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science about industry and regional structural adjustment issues. The goal of the survey is to identify potential risks and opportunities at the regional and industry level. Government has access to data that tells us about the past, but the best source of forward looking information comes from those that are present on the ground. The survey will feed into a forward-looking scan that focuses on significant structural change risks and opportunities at the regional and industry level
- RDA national teleconference on the new Universal Service Guarantee to improve regional telecommunications delivery

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

- RDAB arranged for another RDA representative to participate on this year's Executive Judging panel for the Queensland Community Achievement Awards, because of competing commitments. The Awards recognise, encourage and reward the positive achievements of

Queenslanders and there are 8 judging categories recognising individuals, businesses and community organisations.

## **GOVERNANCE**

RDAB ran a recruitment process for **RDA Deputy Chair and Committee member** positions. Applications were received and reviewed by a selection panel headed up by the Chair, Dr Pat Rowe. Committee Member Jeff Lassen was appointed as Deputy Chair and 2 new Committee members were appointed: Barbara Grieve, who has extensive business and sister city relationships with China, and Peter Kinne who brings global spatial expertise to the Committee. Existing members who applied and were re-appointed - Don Whitehouse, Mark Townend, David Hansen, Laura Barnes, Shawn Day and Margo Couldrey – collectively bring extensive business, local government, education, industry and community expertise and links.