



Developing the long term sustainability of our region

Update from the CEO



Welcome to Issue 105!

Federal Election results

While the final counting is still occurring and the government is yet to be formally installed, we wish to offer our congratulations to the re-elected Member for Kennedy the Hon Bob Katter MP, the re-elected Member for Dawson Mr George Christensen MP and newly elected Member for Herbert Mr Phillip Thompson OAM MP. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Mrs Cathy O'Toole for her contribution over the last three years as the Member for Herbert and wish her all the very best in the future. RDA looks forward to working with all MPs to develop a prosperous future for our region. We now await the outcome of the Senate vote.

Inland Queensland Roads Action Project (IQ-RAP) - now more than \$1 billion achieved

This RDA led project was initiated in late 2013 to achieve economic development and safety outcomes through investment into the road network west of the Bruce Highway and outside South East Queensland. The Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan was released in February 2016 and the Inland Queensland Road Network Strategy was released in July 2018, each of which identified the strategic network, gaps in road and bridge quality and investment required and a prioritised list for action over 18 years.

With the recent Coalition commitment of \$730 million to northern Queensland roads of which the majority are in IQ-RAP, added to the \$625 million being committed over the last three years means that more than \$1 billion additional dollars are now being invested into getting our regional road network up towards the quality it should be. We also look forward to the continuation of other major road funding programs that have been allocated \$2.2 billion which can also fund priorities in the IQ-RAP.

Benefits will include: planning and construction jobs; lower costs of transport (fuel, wear and tear on vehicles, time) due to better road conditions and shorter inland routes becoming a viable option to the longer coastal route connecting southern and northern markets); a reduction in wastage and loss of return on investment due to poor road quality damaging horticultural products; better animal welfare outcomes through more sealed roads to reduce the impact of dust and poor road conditions on animals; opening up of new routes to tourism through the sealing of more roads; more resilient roads in severe weather events to reduce the negative impacts of closures on communities; and most importantly, fewer fatalities and injuries on our roads.

Thank you to all partners and supporters who have contributed to this project either financially and/or with advocacy. This project has been the first of its kind in Australia and is significant on a national level as it covers 16% of the nation and an area which contributes \$43.5 billion to Gross Domestic Product—that is, nearly as much as Tasmania and the Northern Territory combined. Arguably IQ-RAP has achieved more for regional road investment than any other single project in Australia.

Economic recovery from the floods

RDA continues to be involved and takes a leadership role in aspects of the economic recovery work as we move into the long marathon stage of recovery. See page 2 for links to insurance, rebuilding, grants, loans and other flood recovery information.

Regional Employment Trials Program (RETP)

We are seeking new applications! For more information visit: <http://rdanwq.org.au/resources-and-links/grants-programs>

Glenys Schuntner

Chief Executive Officer



RDA Committee

Mr David Donohue

Acting Chair



Managing Director, Queensland Corporate Communication Network Ltd.

Prof. Sabina Knight

Acting Deputy Chair



Director, Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health

Mr Chris Briggs

Secretary



General Manager, SeaLink Queensland

Cr Mary Brown

Treasurer



Deputy Mayor, Hinchinbrook Shire Council

Cr June Kuhl



Deputy Mayor, Richmond Shire Council

Cr Greg Campbell



Mayor, Cloncurry Shire Council

Cr Jack Bawden



Mayor, Carpentaria Shire Council

Cr John Woods



Councillor, Burdekin Shire Council

If you are interested in joining the Committee, please visit <https://rda.gov.au/join-your-rda/> and for further information specific to our RDA please call 07 4410 3655.



Flood recovery related information

The Insurance Council of Australia has multiple websites:



<https://www.insurancecouncil.com.au/>

<http://understandinsurance.com.au/>

<http://www.insurancecouncil.com.au/for-consumers>

<https://disasters.org.au/>

<http://codeofpractice.com.au/document>

Insurers' Brief to the Deputy Premier in Townsville 15 February, 2019 - [Read News Report Here](#)

Statistics

Current number of claims being processed from the monsoon event <https://disasters.org.au/fnq-monsoon-event-data>
 Claims Process Fact Sheet and Insurance Company contact details <https://disasters.org.au/recovery-document>
 NQ Flood Register <https://my.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/assistance-search>

"How to" information

How to make an insurance claim <https://disasters.org.au/how-to-claim>
 FAQs about insurance <https://disasters.org.au/faqs>
 How to make a complaint about an insurance claim <https://disasters.org.au/complaints>
 Building insurance and the scope of works process <https://disasters.org.au/news/2018/7/2/building-insurance-and-the-scope-of-works-process-what-is-it-and-why-is-it-necessary>
 Rebuilding after a natural disaster <https://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/home-maintenance/rebuilding-after-natural-disaster>

Contact details

Australian Financial Complaints Authority <https://www.afca.org.au/>
 Queensland Building and Construction Commission <https://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/>
 Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority <http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/>

Grants and Loans

QRIDA Disaster Recovery Grants and Loans <http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/Disaster-recovery>
 Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Approved <http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/Disaster-recovery/drfa-update-2019>

[RACQ – Natural Disasters Funding](#)

\$50,000 – \$200,000
 Closing 14 June 2019

[Qld Rural and Industry Development Authority – Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Primary Producer](#)

Up to \$75,000
 Closing 9 August 2019

[Centrelink Far North Qld Floods, February 2019 – Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments](#)

Up to \$1,000
 Closing 30 August 2019

[Dept of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors \(Qld\) – Essential household contents grant](#)

Up to \$5,3000 – ongoing

[Dept of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors \(Qld\) – Essential services safety and reconnection grant](#)

Up to \$4,200 – ongoing

[Dept of Housing and Public Works \(Qld\) – Rental Grants](#)

Undisclosed – ongoing

[Dept of Housing and Public Works \(Qld\) – Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program](#)

Up to \$20,000 – ongoing

[Qld Government – Essential services hardship assistance grant](#)

Up to \$750 – ongoing

[Qld Rural and Industry Development Authority – Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – non-profit organisation](#)

Up to \$25,000 – ongoing

[Qld Rural and Industry Development Authority – Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Small Business](#)

Up to \$25,000 – ongoing

[RACQ – Drought Relief](#)

Up to \$200,000 – ongoing

[Qld Govt – Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program](#)

Up to \$20,000 – ongoing

RDA Position Available—Project Manager (part-time)

Title	Part-time Project Manager—(Contract, initially 2 days per week)
Reports to	CEO
Contract	Commence ASAP – initial 3 month contract with potential extension to next year



ROLE

- The Project Manager (PM) is a contract position to support RDA with a range of projects.
- Key projects include an Aviation Development Study (consultant appointed and project has commenced – now a monitoring role for achieving milestones), developing a STEM skills focussed program (early stages of development and engagement with key stakeholders to develop the project framework and a case for funding of the proposed project), developing an [RETP](#) project and application (early stages of development and requires development of the project framework and grant application writing) and encouraging local content in the flood recovery (support work to gather information), a website upgrade project (yet to commence).

MAJOR ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Project briefs and other project documentation
- Stakeholder engagement and communication
- Research, analysis, report writing, grant application writing
- Submission preparation for government enquiries

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Experience in a managing multiple small projects at the same time.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake desk research, telephone interviews and gather information as required for projects.
- Excellent organisational and time management skills.
- A positive attitude with a proactive commitment to excellence and a track record in delivering high quality work and targeted outcomes.
- Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills to support effective external relationship development.
- An ability and interest to take initiative and ownership in problem solving.
- Excellent written communication skills for writing project related documents – eg briefs, letters, reports etc.
- Excellent PC skills – especially in the use of MS Word; Outlook, Powerpoint and Excel to be at an intermediate or higher level.
- Proven sensitivity and tact, integrity and commitment to team work.
- Ability to respect and maintain confidentiality of information.

Desirable

- An existing knowledge of government stakeholders in the Townsville and North West Queensland region.
- An existing network of private sector businesses in the Townsville and North West Queensland region.
- Experience in implementing a website development/ upgrade project.
- Grant application writing experience and skills.

ORGANISATION CONTEXT

There is a network of 52 RDA committees in Australia (see www.rda.gov.au), including 12 committees in Queensland, that are funded by the Australian Government.

For further information about RDA Townsville and North West Queensland, please visit www.rdanwq.org.au

APPLICATIONS—BY COB 24 MAY

Applications can be made through submission of a CV and cover email to info@rdanwq.org.au

Townsville Embracing Digital Innovation in the Agriculture Sector Workshop

Embracing Digital Innovation in the Agricultural Sector is a two-day workshop designed to provide Queensland farmers/workers in the agriculture sector with the knowledge and confidence to implement agtech solutions to increase efficiency and productivity.

Technology today – Think big, start small

This session takes a look at the broad industry trends and challenges, macro (industry) and micro (individuals) benefits and opportunities of Smart Farming and digital transformation. Embracing technology has the potential to increase competitiveness and sustainability in their productions of both large and small landowners.

The session includes:

- Connectivity/Productivity
- Remote Sensing
- GIS GNSS
- Process Automation
- Drones
- Precision Control Technology

Date:	Wednesday 29 May, 2019 & Thursday 30 May, 2019		
Time:	9.00am to 4.00pm	Cost:	Free
Location:	Bohle TAFE Campus, 763 Ingham Road, Bohle, Townsville		
Register:	https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/townsville-embracing-digital-innovation-in-the-agriculture-sector-workshop-tickets-61217910418		

Survey—NA Aquaculture Stakeholders



A new survey has been launched seeking input from aquaculture industry stakeholders across northern Australia.

The results will inform both the northern Australia aquaculture situational analysis report, due for release early 2020 and the northern Australia Aquaculture Industry Vision 2028.

Click here for the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRCNAaQSitAnalysis2019>

Seeking Expressions of Interest

Feasibility Study and Business Case

Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified consultants or organisations to undertake a feasibility study and develop a business case into the production of green-waste compost on a commercial scale for use in agriculture.

The project will identify the cost/ benefit to:

- the agriculture industry;
- the Great Barrier Reef; and
- the disposal of green waste

For further information:

<https://rdafnqts.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/EOI-Compost-FINAL-02052019.pdf>

e: ceo@rdafnqts.org | www.rdafnqts.org.au | p: 07 4041 1729

Expressions of interest must be received in full no later than COB, 5pm Wednesday 5 June, 2019

Facebook Community Boost Program

Facebook Australia has partnered with The Training Collective as part of Queensland Small Business Week to bring the Community Boost program to Townsville .

The Community Boost program is focused on supporting small business in regional Australia by providing workshops for people starting and running a business on Facebook and Instagram.



Date:	Friday, 31 May, 2019		
Time:	8.30am to 1.00pm	Cost:	Free
Location:	Mercure, Townsville		
Register:	https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/facebook-community-boost-powered-by-the-training-collective-townsville-tickets-61763074017?aff=efbeventix&fbclid=IwAR1PT3mEDRnflg_04-viqVsPTEoBdEV71xj4AagV08tUudhJlUwptSioOnM		

2019 / 20 Funding call for Expressions of interest



The CRCNA has the flexibility to allocate funding towards research projects using different Expressions of Interest processes at different times throughout the year. These are:

Open funding calls

- Open Funding calls take place annually.
- The CRCNA outlines the research focus and critical research questions to be addressed by projects submitted through an Expressions of Interest.

Targeted funding calls

- Targeted Funding calls take place throughout the year.
- The CRCNA outlines the details of the project and the required outcomes and the submitted Expressions of Interest must detail how they would undertake the research project.

2019/20 Funding call for Expressions of interest

We are seeking collaborations to develop new technologies, products and services which address industry issues in northern Australia within the areas of agriculture and food, northern Australian health services delivery and Traditional Owner-led agribusiness or health business development.

EOI Open	Monday 20 May, 2019
Deadline for questions:	5pm AEST, Friday 21 June 2019
EOI close:	5pm AEST, Friday 28 June 2019
Notification:	(successful and unsuccessful) – October 2019

Click here for the EOI form: <http://www.crcna.com.au/research/expressions-of-interest/2019-20-funding-call/eoi-form/>

For further information contact:

projects@crcna.com.au
+61 7 4401 5035

AgriFutures Australia—Largest Agrifood Tech Event

AgriFutures Australia is proud to announce that it will once again host Asia Pacific's largest agrifood tech event, evoke^{AG}.

Join innovators from across the region and around the world on an aligned conversation on food and farming, which will allow our agricultural sector to move beyond today and be ready for tomorrow. Early bird tickets are on sale now. In 2020 there are also new ticket types for primary producers and students.

evoke^{AG} is returning to the iconic Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, Australia on 18-19 February 2020. Our inaugural event was a sell-out and those people wishing to attend in 2020 are encouraged to secure their early bird tickets online to guarantee their spot in new conversations on the event's three key themes: food, farm and future.

Along with our two-day early bird ticket, we have also introduced two special discounted tickets for 2020:

- A two-day primary producer ticket to ensure our farmers are at the centre of these discussions. Primary producer early bird tickets are \$660.00 (including GST)
- A two-day student ticket for \$440 (including GST), limited to 100 tickets
- Early bird two-day tickets are \$825.00 (including GST), and are on sale until 5.00pm AEST, 12 July 2019.

For more information and to purchase tickets: https://evokeag.com/?_cldee=Y2VvOHJkYW53cS5vcmcuYXU%3D&recipientid=contact-5d20c7af7a01e81180ca000c29260fc8-5ff4de1e65c14aefae44e8a7caddbf25&esid=a1dc46bc-4478-e911-80ee-000c29260fc8

Help us connect, inspire, innovate and position Australia, New Zealand and Asia as active players in the international agrifood tech ecosystem.

Small Business Week 27 May—31 May

Queensland is home to more than 426,000 small businesses (those employing less than 20 people) that are at the core of every industry sector. They are in every community in every region, represent over 97% of businesses statewide, and employ approximately 44% of all private sector workers.

Small businesses complement the economic activity of large organisations by providing them with goods and services and make up the backbone of the supply chains of larger projects. They power regional development and are the gateway through which many people enter the economy.

Small Business Grants Available:

Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program—[Click here](#)

Small Business Digital Grants Program—[Click here](#)

Small Business Week Grants Program—[Click here](#)



Subscribe to the Small Business Newsletter: [Click here](#)

For More Information: [Click here](#)



Regional Employment Trials

Recognising that some regions face challenges in terms of employment opportunities and growth, the Australian Government has introduced the Regional Employment Trials (RET) program in 10 disadvantaged regions.

The trial takes into account regional variations to help ensure that local economic opportunities are better promoted to Australians looking for work and employment services providers.

In trial regions, Employment Facilitators will work with Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees to enable local stakeholders to address employment issues. RDA committees will play a key role in the identification, assessment and promotion of RET projects to ensure they align with local needs.



Local Employment Initiative Fund

A Local Employment Initiative Fund of \$1 million will be available in each of the 10 RET regions, providing grants of between \$7,500 and \$200,000 to local stakeholders for employment related projects.

Local stakeholders in the selected regions can develop project proposals for initial consideration by their local RDA committee. To facilitate a strong connection with employment programs, all projects will need to partner with at least one employment services provider. Activities are expected to better connect employers with regional Australians looking for work, identify future employment, training or work experience opportunities, and help address local skills gaps.

Initiatives will be tailored to the opportunities and needs in each selected region. Examples might include:

- pre-apprenticeship placement programs
- mature aged residents and local business leaders mentoring job seekers
- preparing job seekers to be skilled and ready for employment in up-coming infrastructure projects
- work experience projects aligned with local employment opportunities.

For applications: <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/regional-employment-trials>

For More Information: <https://www.jobs.gov.au/regional-employment-trials-program#Who>



John Hall
Ph: [0475 241 428](tel:0475241428)
Email: john@NQFacilitator.com



Tamilyn Brennan
Ph: [0409 763 507](tel:0409763507)
Email: tamilyn@nqemployment.com.au

Training and Workshops

<p>Create Winning Investment Proposals</p> <p>Building on some of the themes from earlier workshops in the series, the investor readiness session will prepare participants for the process of attracting investment, with a particular focus on the development of high quality information memorandums.</p> <p>You will learn about what investors are looking for and the areas you should focus on in your business.</p>	Date:	Wednesday, 22 May, 2019		
	Time:	9.00am—4.00pm	Cost:	Free
	Location:	Ballroom 2, The Ville, Townsville		
	Register:	http://tiq.force.com/dc/reg/f1555282471083		

<p>Rheinmetall Defence Australia - Industry Engagement</p> <p>Rheinmetall will provide its defence program updates and insights, as well as engage in B2B sessions through their Australian Industry Capability representatives to gain a greater understanding of industry capabilities.</p> <p>Given the amount of interest Australian SMEs have demonstrated in wanting to engage with Rheinmetall, ICN and Rheinmetall welcome you to this opportunity to engage with them and look forward to seeing as many of you there as</p>	Date:	Thursday, 23 May, 2019		
	Time:	8.30am—11.00am	Cost:	Free
	Location:	Rydges Southbank, 23 Palmer Street, Townsville		
	Register:	https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rheinmetall-defence-australia-industry-engagement-roadshow-thurs-23-may-2019-townsville-tickets-60802734616		

<p>Facebook digital marketing: Your business needs to be here!</p> <p>With billions of active users on Facebook and 60% of Australians active on Facebook daily, if your business is not on Facebook you are being left behind in our increasingly digital world.</p> <p>Get the knowledge you need to use Facebook as a marketing tool for your business. In this workshop you'll learn how to connect to your customers, reach more customers, create leads and drive sales!</p>	Date:	Tuesday, 28 May, 2019		
	Time:	12.00pm—2.00pm	Cost:	\$18.41
	Location:	Webinar		
	Register:	https://asbas.rdabrisbane.org.au/facebook-digital-marketing-your-business-needs-to-be-here-28-may-webinar		

<p>Aligning Business & Life with Tam Curtis</p> <p>This workshop aims to help small business owners sort their lives and their businesses.</p> <p>It will teach them to understand what is important to them and their lives and how to align their lives and their businesses to work together to achieve what they want.</p>	Date:	Wednesday, 29 May, 2019		
	Time:	10.00am—12 noon	Cost:	
	Location:	Townsville Business Development Center 184-188 Vickers Road North, Condon.		
	Register:	https://www.tbdc.com.au/workshop-registration/?ee=258&mc_cid=b3ee047c1f&mc_eid=b5a01d79c6		

<p>MineX 2019 Industry Breakfast—Mount Isa</p> <p>You will hear from New Century Resources who have plans to become one of the world's top 10 zinc producers with the restarted Century Mine in Queensland; and Multicom Resources who will provide a special update on the Saint Elmo Project that is located in Queensland's North West Minerals Province.</p> <p>The breakfast will also give you an opportunity to meet and hear about some of the challenges faced by these projects and how our local businesses can benefit from these opportunities.</p>	Date:	Thursday, 30 May, 2019		
	Time:	7.00am—9.00am	Cost:	\$25 pp
	Location:	Carpentaria Buffalo Club (Corner Camooweal and Grace street), Mt Isa		
	Register:	https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/minex-2019-industry-breakfast-tickets-60509804454		



Interested in finding out more about upcoming major project development in north Queensland? Lock your diary in now for the annual

QMCA/ IAQ/ RDA Queensland Major Projects Pipeline briefing breakfast in Townsville on Tuesday 6 August, 2019!

More information to come!



Grants

Cooperative Research Center (CRC) Grant

Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) support medium to long term industry-led collaborations to solve industry problems and deliver tangible outcomes.

More Information: <https://www.grants.gov.au/?event=public.GO.show&GOUUID=27F6B426-B0A2-DAF7-884406A4E9535E7B>

Business Development Fund Grant

The Business Development Fund (the Fund) is the Queensland Government's \$80 million angel and venture capital funding available to Queensland businesses. The intention of the Fund is to support the growth of innovative businesses and the creation of high-value jobs as well as attract both interstate and international investments in Queensland, thereby strengthening Queensland's entrepreneurial and start-up eco-system.

More Information: <https://www.grants.services.qld.gov.au/#/service-details/64601?answers=1002,-2000,-4000,-3000,-5000&sortBy=status&sortDir=desc>

Farm Management Grants Scheme

Farm Management Grants are now available to assist eligible Queensland primary producers or their relatives offset the costs of professional advice associated with succession planning.

Applications close: 30 June, 2019

More Information: <http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/farm-management-grants>

Jobs and Regional Growth Fund

The \$150 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund is part of the government's broader Jobs and Regional Growth Package, targeted at growing regional economies and creating long-term jobs for Queenslanders.

The fund is helping to facilitate private sector projects that create employment and economic growth opportunities in regional areas. The fund focuses primarily on regions outside South East Queensland however, projects located in all areas with higher than average unemployment may be considered.

Financial assistance ranging from \$100,000 to over \$10 million is available. Applications are assessed against an appropriate set of criteria, and the type and level of assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis.

More Information: <http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/industry-support/jobs-and-regional-growth-fund.html>

Biofutures Industry Development Fund

The fund is a \$5 million repayable fund to help well-advanced industrial biotech proponents to get large-scale projects through the final stage of financial due diligence to secure financing from investors.

The fund helps companies with new projects reach a point at which they can better access venture capital, supporting companies pursuing innovative industrial biotech and bioproducts projects and enhancing Queensland's reputation as a supportive investment location for the biofutures industry.

More Information: <http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/biofutures-industry-development-fund.html>

We recommend the following for information on Australian and Queensland Government Grants:



Australian Government's grant's information system - GrantConnect
<https://www.grants.gov.au/>

Queensland Government
Grants Finder

Queensland Government's Grants Finder
<https://www.grants.services.qld.gov.au/#/>