

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The Sunshine Coast is home to over 33,000 businesses which contribute to a strong and resilient economy, enabling the region to grow as a great place to live, work and play. The Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-33 is designed as a blueprint for sustainable economic growth to capitalise on business opportunities nationally and in the global marketplace.

Council's Business Development Program is a service offered to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and supports local business activity and innovation while also building the reputation of the region as a key investment location. Whether starting or scaling up a business, the Local Business Development Team works with businesses and Chambers to identify, connect and deliver initiatives that inform, educate and connect the region's small and medium-sized businesses.

Ensure you keep informed by subscribing to Sunshine Coast Council's Monthly Business News e-newsletter via sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business/Business-News

To find out more and connect with a Business Development Facilitator email: businessdevelopment@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or visit sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business

COVID19 AND NATURAL DISASTER SUPPORT:

Council businesses resources sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business/COVID19-Support-for-Business. State and Federal Government support Business.gov.au see Business Qld

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Free wellbeing support

B-Well + Prosper Program offers Sunshine Coast business owners with 20 or less full-time employees' free access to wellbeing support for their whole team. Join to access FREE: Online Programs, Tools, Fact Sheets, Interviews, Wellbeing Workshops, Free Local Activities, Podcasts, Wellbeing Calendar, Blogs, how to access support, and a Manager Toolkit to look after your employees. Go to: bwell.mindstar.com.au

TAFE Build A Better Business Program

Council has partnered with TAFE Queensland to deliver the **TAFE Build A Better Business Program**. This practical course empowers participants to develop a focused Business Action Plan, including finance, marketing and implementation plans. Plus, on successful completion of the course, participants receive a TAFE Certificate IV in Small Business Management. As Council continues to support business through COVID disruptions, pending subsidy eligibility, business owners and managers can take part in this course, which is valued at \$2390, at the highly subsidised rate of \$99 (online) and \$150 (face-to-face). To be considered for the Program, apply via this Expression of Interest form here: TAFEBetterBusiness

Professional Advice Support Program

Council's **Professional Advice Support Program** offers up to one-hour of free legal, HR or Accountancy support for businesses that have been critically affected by the disruption caused by COVID-19. Go to: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business/Business-Programs/Professional-Advice-Support-Program

ASPIRE: Free business waste platform

A circular economy matchmaking tool allowing businesses to buy, sell or exchange waste streams. ASPIRE is a free online business to business tool for businesses up to 100 staff who need to list unwanted waste streams and be connected to businesses who can use this input as a reuse. This offers businesses solutions to growing waste and disposal costs, helps create new revenue streams and offers business opportunities. Go to:

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business/Business-Programs/Circular-Economy

BUSINESS TOOLS AND RESOURCES:

Council has compiled a suite of business support tools and resources. Practical ways that businesses can plan, review and grow their businesses. From learning, training and support programs, to events, and information on starting a new business or developing an existing one. Go to: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business

The Queensland Government's Business Queensland site is an online resource for small business owners. It will guide you through everything you need to start and run a business. Go to: business.qld.gov.au/

The ABLIS site assists with identifying relevant state, territory, local and Australian government licenses, permits, approvals, regulations and codes of practice. Go to: ablis.business.gov.au/

The Queensland Government's Department of Employment, Small Business and Training hosts a range of programs, initiatives, information, support, tools, events and workshops to support Queensland small businesses to start, grow and employ. Go to: desbt.qld.gov.au/small-business.

Small businesses can contact the [Office of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#) by [submitting an enquiry or request for help](#) or call [1300 312 344](tel:1300312344). Maree Adshead is the Queensland Small Business Commissioner, providing information advisory services, as well as assistance with COVID-19 lease disputes. Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can visit [Business Queensland](#) or call the Hotline on [1300 654 687](tel:1300654687) Go to: business.qld.gov.au/running-business/support-assistance/qsbcc

Energy savings for small business

Free independent energy advice tailored to your business. Speak to a business expert to find out ways you can save. Go to: businessenergyadvice.com.au/

Profile, Community and Economy.id brings together economic data from multiple sources to tell the story of a local economy and how it is changing. It includes access to demographic, economic and industry data. This information is designed to be used by council staff, local businesses, investors, community groups, students, and the public.

Go to: invest.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Investment-Support/Economy-ID

The following videos demonstrate a few of the many ways this data might be implemented.

- Target market selection – Click [here](#) to start video
- Assisting businesses applying for finance – Click [here](#) to start video
- Business Locations – Click [here](#) to start video [Developmenti](#) is a great tool also that will connect you to access to past and current application details and basic property information for the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area if this might be of assistance when seeking property with the correct zoning.

Council's **Development Services team** also have a service desk at our Council offices on 10 First Avenue, Maroochydore. Or, this team can be contacted via phone, fax, email, mail. [Click here](#) to see all the options available to you.

PROCUREMENT SUPPORT:

Council offers an **online alert service to advise of advertised tenders**. To keep abreast of, and receive alerts for all Sunshine Coast Council Tendering opportunities subscribe to Council's Tender Alerts here:

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/Tenders/Tender-Alert-Service-Subscription

Industry Capability Network (ICN) is a network of experienced industry procurement and supply chain specialists who introduce businesses to projects large and small across Australia and New Zealand. Funded by members and subscribers, including Australian and New Zealand federal, state and territory governments. Go to: icn.org.au

Council delivers free **Doing Business with Council Workshops** to assist your business to better understand council's procurement requirements, processes and information when submitting tenders and quotations to council, as well as other levels of government. For enquiries, email contracts@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

GRANTS AND FUNDING:

Council's Community Grants Program supports projects that contribute to the delivery of Council's corporate priorities as informed by our long term strategic policy positions on community, economic development and environment. The Program aims to acknowledge and strengthen the valuable contribution that community groups and their volunteers make towards achieving our shared vision and goal of being Australia's most sustainable region: healthy, smart, creative and fostering a strong community. For a summary of Council's Community Grants go to: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Living-and-Community/Grants-and-Funding

Sunshine Coast Funding Finder connects businesses and business and community groups to billions of dollars' worth of grants. A comprehensive one-stop portal that connects users to local, state, federal and private grants available nation-wide. To access the site and funding available, businesses can visit sunshinecoast.grantguru.com.au/

Skilling Queenslanders for Work for employers

Incentives are available for employers who recruit Queensland job seekers as part of the Queensland Government's Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiatives. Employers also have the opportunity to support and participate in local Skilling Queenslanders for Work training projects designed to equip job seekers with the skills, qualifications and experience needed to enter and stay in the workforce.

desbt.qld.gov.au/training/employers/funding/sqw

PERMITS AND LICENCES

Events and Entertainment

Did you know you'll need a licence or permit to do certain activities on the Sunshine Coast? If you want to hold a wedding, ceremony or event in a park, on a beach or other council land, you'll need a events and entertainment permit from Council. To apply go to:

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Pay-and-Apply/Events-and-Entertainment

Business

Starting or taking over an existing business, or looking to provide amplified music in an entertainment precinct? Go here to apply: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business/Developing-Your-Business/Permits-and-licences

Local Government Toolbox (LG Toolbox)

For information on other permit requirements, like food, beauty, health, environment, animals, tourism, accommodation, pollution, beauty and more go to the digital Local Government Toolbox (LG Toolbox). The LG Toolbox is a collection of online information to support the delivery of quality services to local communities, providing information for residents, businesses and local government officers in Queensland. Go to

lgtoolbox.qld.gov.au

MARKETING AND DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES

Council's regional events platform, **Events.SunshineCoast**, brings together all of the region's significant events in one easy to use platform. To register your event, go to: events.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

To find out more about how we host, deliver and assist some of Australia's highest profile and most popular events, go to: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Experience-Sunshine-Coast/Events

If you are interested in **digital upskilling**, there are plenty of free and low-cost resources available:

- ❖ Backed by Federal funding, Deloitte was tasked during COVID lockdown with providing digital support to small businesses. These resources can be found business.gov.au/online/digital-tools-for-business
- ❖ Facebook's [Boost with Facebook](#) program offers free digital skills training online. Small businesses can also connect and access weekly live workshops, best practice local case studies and personalised Facebook Blueprint Learning pathways [Boost with Facebook Australia Group](#). The [Facebook Blueprint](#) site offers a course catalogue to help businesses build their business on Facebook and Instagram. Go to: facebook.com/business/boost/webinars/IRE
- ❖ [The Google Digital Garage](#) is a useful suite of resources with flexible, personalised training courses. Go to: learndigital.withgoogle.com/digitalgarage-au
- ❖ Digital [tools and software](#) available that can support your online marketing goals. Marketing tools and platforms can help you conduct your online promotion and retailing. By streamlining how you deliver targeted messages to your customer, it can help you achieve your business goals. Go to: business.gov.au/marketing/marketing-and-advertising/tools-and-software-to-market-your-business
- ❖ The **State Government Small Business Skills Hub** delivers free online training and learning opportunities for COVID-19 impacted small businesses. Short courses IT skills to sales and marketing and leadership. Go to: gldskills.com.au
- ❖ The **Go1 Content Hub** is the largest curated eLearning library by top training providers; you'll always have the right training courses to upskill and re-train. Go to: go1.com/en-au/
- ❖ The **Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) Digital Solutions** is a funded program aimed to increase the digital capability of small business owners. ASBAS provides low cost, high quality advice on a wide range of digital topics. Go to: businessstation.com.au/program/asbas/
- ❖ **JobTrainer** funded courses help provide skills effective recovery from the pandemic. The program targets growth areas, helping fill existing skills needs or assist in reskilling. JobTrainer funded courses are for school-leavers, young people and job seekers looking to develop new skills. Over 70 free or low cost courses are available. Go to: tafeqld.edu.au/study-with-us/what-it-costs/jobtrainer.html
- ❖ **UPSKILL with Amazon Web Services**. Sunshine Coast Council, TAFE Queensland and Amazon Web Services (AWS) with the support of Silicon Coast, collaborated to provide the Sunshine Coast community free access to specialist digital skills training. This training is available on-demand to our local community to help you build new skills in courses for Introduction to Cloud Computing, Developer Fundamentals, Application Developer, Cyber Security and Startups. Go to: nextlevelsc.com.au/

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY GROUPS:

A Chamber of Commerce is a member organisation that organises and promotes the common interests of a business community. Chambers of Commerce work across various sectors: trade, industry, advocacy, as well as national and international mobility.

The benefits of joining chambers of commerce can be immeasurable. While actively promoting members, chambers also endorse their local and broader communities. By facilitating relationships, chambers of commerce ensure that businesses are able to collaborate in creating opportunities for themselves, their partners, and their clients.

The **Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance** is the peak body for the chambers on the coast. The Alliance is a not-for-profit / for-purpose organisation committed to providing a platform of unity, a central focus and united voice for regional benefit, in alignment with the needs and goals of Chambers of Commerce, Industry bodies and community organisations. To connect with the Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance go to:

www.sunshinecoastchamberalliance.com.au

Buderim 4556 Chamber 4556chamber.com.au

Caloundra Chamber of Commerce & Industry caloundrachamber.com.au

Coolum Business & Tourism coolumbusinessandtourism.com.au

Eumundi Chamber of Commerce eumundichamber.com.au

Glasshouse Country Chamber of Commerce glasshousecountrychamber.com.au

Kawana Waters Chamber of Commerce & Industry kawanachamber.com.au

Kenilworth & District Chamber of Commerce & Citizens kenilworthqld.org.au

Maleny & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry malenycommerce.org.au

Maroochydore Chamber of Commerce maroochy.org

Montville Chamber of Commerce montvillecommerce.com.au

Mooloolaba Chamber of Commerce mooloolaba-chamber-of-commerce.business.site

Nambour Chamber of Commerce Inc. nambour.com

Yandina Chamber of Commerce yandinachamberofcommerce.com.au

Sunshine Coast Young Chamber of Commerce facebook.com/Youngchambersc

Chambers of Commerce Industry Queensland cciq.com.au

INDUSTRY GROUPS

Cleantech Industries Sunshine Coast cleantechsunshinecoast.org.au

Creative Alliance Sunshine Coast creativealliance.org.au

Education Sunshine Coast educationsunshinecoast.com

Food & Agribusiness Network foodagribusiness.org.au

Housing Industry Association Sunshine Coast (HIA) hia.com.au

Master Builders Association mbqld.com.au

Property Council of Australia propertycouncil.com.au

Regional Development Australia (Sunshine Coast) rdasunshinecoast.org.au

Sunshine Coast Business Council scbusinesscouncil.com.au

SunCoast Angels suncoastangels.com.au

Urban Development Institute of Australia udia.com.au

Visit Sunshine Coast visitsunshinecoast.com

Manufacturers Excellence Forum amanufacturing.com.au

Study Sunshine Coast studysunshinecoast.com.au