

*Developing the long term  
sustainability of our region*

## Update from the CEO



**Welcome to Issue 102!**

### Monsoon and flood event

Our region and communities have had a very tough start to 2019 and RDA's thoughts are with all those who have been directly or indirectly affected by the monsoon and flooding events. 14 out of the 15 local government areas in our region have had a disaster declaration at some level. I wish to acknowledge and thank all three levels of government for their leadership and on the ground roles during the emergency situations and also thank the Australian Army for their incredible level of support with evacuations and clean up in Townsville and also in the North West where they have airlifted fuel, feedstock and essential supplies. Our communities have shouldered huge challenges and our people keep supporting each other. Following the sprint race during the disasters, our recovery will be a marathon and it is satisfying to see so many organisations come together so quickly to start recovery processes.

### Disaster Relief Funding

In the following pages you will see information for individuals, businesses and not-for-profits that has come from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority website and others. I hope you can share information with family, friends and colleagues across the region and encourage those who may benefit to access the services, support payments and loans that are available.

### Business and jobs impact

While the impact of the disasters is still being measured, we know that major infrastructure like the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line and the Flinders/ Barkly Highways and connecting roads need significant repairs to enable our regional economy to keep going and with that maintain the thousands of jobs that rely on the businesses along the corridor and the businesses that supply or service them. We know that many small and medium sized businesses in the region rely on work with the mines along the corridor so the flow on effect from any closures or slow downs due to the lack of transport infrastructure will make a significant negative impact on our communities. We understand the Federal and State governments and industries are already working urgently on solutions and we look forward to updates on repairs and timelines of impact.

### Local content in recovery with a special focus on insurance spend on housing and civil construction and retail spend

To support the economic recovery, I am chairing a committee made up of peak industry membership organisations to focus on issues and opportunities for local businesses associated with insurance claim expenditure. Communications with insurance companies is urgent and on-going. While key messages about the importance of local content is being supported through the Deputy Premier and Mayors, and insurance companies advise they will use local contractors and retailers where possible, the committee is working to showcase good examples of use of local businesses and also monitor and report on cases where local businesses are being overlooked. The committee reports and provides advice to the Townsville Economic Recovery Taskforce. Lessons learnt through this Townsville recovery group will be shared within the region to support other recovery efforts.

### Regional Employment Trials Program (RETP)

This program continues and we are seeking new applications! For more information about opportunities to fund innovative solutions for creating pathways for unemployed into new employment, I encourage you to visit the Department of Jobs and Small Business website: <https://www.jobs.gov.au/regional-employment-trials-program>

**Glenys Schuntner**  
Chief Executive Officer



### RDA Committee

#### Mr David Donohue

Acting Chair



Managing Director,  
Queensland  
Corporate  
Communication  
Network Ltd.

#### Prof. Sabina Knight

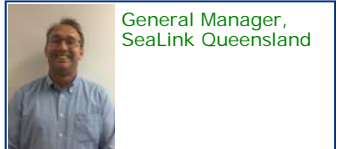
Acting Deputy Chair



Director,  
Mount Isa Centre for  
Rural and Remote  
Health

#### Mr Chris Briggs

Secretary



General Manager,  
SeaLink Queensland

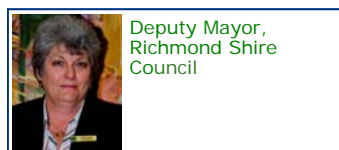
#### Cr Mary Brown

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— Queensland Reconstruction Authority

### Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is a jointly funded program between the Australian Government and state and territory (state) governments, through which the Australian Government provides financial assistance to support state governments with disaster recovery costs.



## Assistance for individuals

### Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme

To alleviate personal hardship and distress.

- **Emergency Hardship Assistance Grant** – provides assistance as a contribution to support people directly impacted by an eligible disaster to meet their immediate essential needs for food, clothing, medical supplies or temporary accommodation.
- **Essential Services Hardship Assistance** – provides assistance for people directly impacted by an eligible disaster to meet their immediate needs where they have experienced the loss of 1 or more essential services for more than 5 days.
- **Essential Household Contents Grant** – provides a contribution towards replacing or repairing essential household contents, such as beds, linen and whitegoods that have been lost or damaged by an eligible disaster.
- **Structural Assistance Grant** – provides a contribution towards repairs or replacement of a dwelling damaged by an eligible disaster, to return it to a safe, habitable and secure condition.

Contact Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors on 1800 173 349 or [www.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au)

### Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme

To assist residents with the inspection and reconnection of essential services that have been damaged by an eligible disaster. The scheme provides financial assistance to individuals and families as a contribution towards safety inspections of and repairs to residential essential services (i.e. electricity, gas, water and sewerage) damaged by an eligible disaster.

Contact Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors on 1800 173 349 or [www.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au)

## Assistance for small business

### Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans

Concessional interest rate loans to assist small business operators whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

### Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business

Concessional interest rate loans to small businesses who have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

### Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Small Business

Grants for small businesses who have suffered direct damage caused by an eligible disaster. Grants are aimed at covering the cost of clean-up and reinstatement, but not at providing compensation for losses.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

## Flood Recovery— Queensland Reconstruction Authority cont.

### Assistance for not for profit

**Disaster Assistance (Not-for-profit organisations) Loans**

Concessional interest rate loans to assist not-for-profit organisations whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

**Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Not-for-profit organisations**

Concessional interest rate loans to not-for-profit organisations who have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

**Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Not-for-profit organisations**

Grants for not-for-profit organisations who have suffered direct damage caused by an eligible disaster. Grants are aimed at covering the cost of clean-up and reinstatement, but not at providing compensation for losses.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

### Assistance for Primary Producers

**Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans**

Concessional interest rate loans to assist primary producers whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

**Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers**

Concessional interest rate loans to primary producers who have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

**Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers**

To assist primary producers impacted by an eligible disaster with the transport of livestock, fodder or water for livestock, building, fencing equipment or machinery to the primary producer's home property.

Contact Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 3224 8832 or [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au)

**Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants - Primary Producers**

Grants for primary producers who have suffered direct damage caused by an eligible disaster. Grants are aimed at covering the cost of clean-up and reinstatement, but not at providing compensation for losses.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)

## Our Region—Assistance measures in place

Below is a table of all effected Councils within the RDA Townsville and North West Queensland region.

Local Government Area	Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme	Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme	Counter Disaster Operations	Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets	Disaster Assistance (Small business loans)	Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business	Disaster Assistance (Not for Profit) Loans	Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Not for Profit	Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans	Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers	Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Small Businesses	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery for Not for Profit
Townsville City Council	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 3/2/19	Activated 3/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 7/2/19	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19
Boufia Shire Council			Activated 8/2/19	Activated 8/2/19										
Burdekin Shire Council	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 31/1/19	Activated 31/1/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 7/2/19		
Burke Shire Council	Activated 14/2/19	Activated 14/2/19	Activated 10/2/19	Activated 10/2/19					Activated 13/2/19	Activated 13/2/19	Activated 13/2/19	Activated 14/2/19		
Carpentaria Shire Council			Activated 5/2/19	Activated 5/2/19					Activated 13/2/19	Activated 13/2/19	Activated 13/2/19	Activated 14/2/19		
Charters Towers Regional Council	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 1/2/19					Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19			
Cloncurry Shire Council	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 3/2/19	Activated 3/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 7/2/19	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19
Flinders Shire Council	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 7/2/19		
McKinlay Shire Council	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 7/2/19	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19
Mornington Shire Council			Activated 5/2/19	Activated 5/2/19										
Mount Isa City Council			Activated 8/2/19	Activated 8/2/19										
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 4/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 1/2/19										
Richmond Shire Council	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 8/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 1/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 6/2/19	Activated 7/2/19	Activated 15/2/19	Activated 15/2/19

For further information on what assistance is available please contact 1800 110 841 or email at [info@qra.gov.au](mailto:info@qra.gov.au) or [Here](#).

### Important Survey

The Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training is seeking feedback from businesses impacted directly and indirectly by the North/ North West Queensland flooding event via this [Survey](#). The information gathered through this survey will inform assistance measures offered now and into the future.

We understand some businesses may not have been directly impacted however, they have experienced or can anticipate an indirect impact. This information is equally valuable.

Any assistance in encouraging your local businesses to complete this survey through the following website or social media channels would be greatly appreciated.

The URL link for the survey is <https://analytics-au.clickdimensions.com/cn/ainos/nqmonsoon2019>.

Information about current assistance is available on the Queensland Government business site at [Queensland Natural Disaster Assistance](#).

Thank for your support so we can attract the programs and grants our communities need.



## Flood Recovery—other assistance

### Human Services—Disaster Recovery Payment

Disaster Recovery Allowance is a short term payment to help you if a declared disaster directly affects your income.

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/far-north-queensland-floods-february-2019-disaster-recovery-allowance>

### Community Recovery Queensland

People who are experiencing hardship can receive support and financial assistance through Community Recovery Queensland. For more information, download the self-recovery app at [communityrecovery.qld.gov.au](http://communityrecovery.qld.gov.au) or contact 1800 173 349.

### Small Business Recovery Centre now open

The Small Business Recovery Centre in Townsville is a one-stop shop to get advice from local, state and federal agencies.

Whether it's information about financial assistance, help with your business insurance, or a desk to do business: we are here to help. When you arrive, we'll talk through your situation and find the right expert or service to assist you.

The Small Business Recovery Centre is open daily at 143 Walker Street Townsville. If you can't make it into the centre, call us on 1300 654 687.

### Rental Recovery Hub

The Department of Housing and Public Works (HPW) has joined forces with the REIQ, the Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) and Tenants Queensland to preserve tenancies, and help impacted renters in the private market and real estate agents get back on their feet.

HPW has established a Rental Recovery Hub at the Rising Sun Shopping Centre in Mundingburra, Townsville, which is a dedicated space where agents and renters can access joined-up, coordinated advice and brokerage assistance to resolve their housing situations.

The Rental Recovery Hub will:

- have REIQ, RTA, Tenants Queensland and HPW staff working together to swiftly resolve situations for both tenants and agents who need advice and brokerage assistance,
- operate from 10am to 3pm, 7 days a week, for as long as needed, and
- be strongly connected with the local Housing Service Centre and Recovery Centre's, so as to avoid duplication and confusion for affected residents

#### Location:

Shop 2, Rising Sun Shopping Centre, 10-14 Ross River Road, Mundingburra

### Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) provides one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the floods. The rate of AGDRP is \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child. Claims for this payment can be lodged with the [Department of Human Services](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) for a period up to six months. AGDRP is available for people who have been seriously injured, have lost their homes or whose homes have been directly damaged, or are the immediate family members of a person who has died, as a direct result of the floods.

You have until 11 August 2019 to lodge a claim for AGDRP in the local government areas of Burdekin, Burke, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Cook, Doomadgee, Douglas, Flinders, McKinlay, Palm Island, Richmond, Townsville, Winton and Wujal Wujal.

For more information on eligibility, visit the [Department of Human Services](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) website or contact the Australian Government Information Hotline on 180 22 66 for claims assistance.

### Small Business Assistance Registration

The Queensland Government is connecting with business owners impacted by the recent flooding to identify what is needed most to help during this challenging time.

By registering and telling us where you need assistance, we can work to quickly connect you with the right people to help you recover and resume trading. We can match you with a business mentor who will help you address business challenges resulting from damage to your business and develop a strategy for rebuilding.

The information you provide will also help us to assess the impact of recent flooding on your business and determine further financial assistance.

Register: [Here](#)

### Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program

The Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program provides not-for-profit sport and recreation organisations with funding to re-establish their facilities and activities after extreme natural events, including floods, fire, cyclones and severe storms.

Funding of up to \$5000 (Level 1) and \$20,000 (Level 2) may be available for eligible sport and recreation organisations located in areas declared under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

More information: [Here](#)



### FREE WORKPLACE ADVICE LINE CALL

If your business in Townsville has been impacted by the floods and have a question regarding your legal obligations as a business or employer, use your complimentary Workplace Advice Line Call.

Call us on 13 29 59.

Lines open from Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm (AEST). Valid till 29 March 2019.

[ablawyers.com.au](http://ablawyers.com.au)

13 29 59

Events

**ASBAS Digital Solutions program**



**Which social media platforms are right for your business & why?**

Social media marketing (SMM) is a powerful way for businesses of all sizes to reach customers and if you're not speaking directly to your audience through social platforms, you're missing out! During this workshop we will take a look at the following social media platforms and identify which platforms are more beneficial to individual businesses based on their SMM objective:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- Snapchat
- Google My Business (and how is it different to Google Plus)

Dates:	Thursday, 7 March, 2019
Time:	9.00am—11.00am
Cost:	\$18.41 inc GST
Location:	Flinders Street Library, Level 1, 280 Flinders Street, Townsville City
Register:	<a href="#">Here</a>

**The digital economy is here! Is your business taking advantage?**

The world as we know it is continually changing, and one of the fundamental drivers is digital transformation.

This means using the latest technology to do what you already do – but better! Start your digital transformation journey here. This workshop will cover:

- Developing your digital footprint
- How to review your current online presence
- Creating a digital audit
- Developing a digital strategy to grow your business
- Planning for the growth of your digital platforms

Dates:	Tuesday, 5 March, 2019
Time:	8.30am—10.30am
Cost:	\$18.41 inc GST
Location:	Burdekin Shire Council Chambers, 145 Young Street, Ayr
Register:	<a href="#">Here</a>

## Events

### Townsville Industry Breakfast

You are invited to attend the next Townsville Industry Breakfast. Come along and hear from project leaders about future work and business opportunities in North Queensland. Details of project presentations to be announced soon!

Tickets strictly limited. [Registrations](#) close 5 pm Friday 8 March.

Dates:	Tuesday, 12 March, 2019
Time:	6.30am—8.30am
Cost:	\$40
Location:	Townsville RSL Club, 139 Charters Towers Road, Townsville
Register:	<a href="#">Here</a>

### Preparing Effective Capability Statements Workshop

If you want to stand out from the crowd and improve your chances of securing contracts, then this workshop is a must. An effective capability statement outlines your business capabilities to decision-makers in government and industry.

Attending this interactive four-hour workshop is an opportunity to:

- hear first-hand from government and industry about the standards they expect from local suppliers
- work through a capability statement template that's been well-received by project decision-makers
- view examples of excellent capability statements prepared by others
- begin creating your own powerful business capability statement.

Dates:	Wednesday, 27 March, 2019
Time:	8.30am—12.30pm
Cost:	\$50 (includes morning tea and light lunch)
Location:	Master Builders Training Room, 316 Sturt Street, Townsville
Register:	<a href="#">Here</a>

### Learn how to attract investment or funding to achieve your business goals.

Whether you're looking to expand domestically or explore global markets, knowing what sort of investment or funding suits your needs is crucial.

In this workshop you'll gain a basic understanding of investment and funding attraction pathways and what investors, banks and governments are looking for to make decisions.

Dates:	Wednesday, 27 February, 2019
Time:	7.30am—9.00am
Cost:	\$30
Location:	Ballroom 3, The Ville Resort, Sir Leslie Thies Drive, Townsville
Register:	<a href="#">Here</a>

## Events

### Procurement Essentials

Don't miss this joint presentation by the Townsville City Council Procurement Team and Local Buy. Learn about the Council's Procurement Framework and how to become a preferred supplier for Queensland Local Government.

Dates:	Wednesday, 27 February, 2019
Time:	5.00pm
Cost:	Free
Location:	Mercure Townsville, 166 Woolcock Street, Townsville
Register:	<a href="#">Here</a>

### Queensland Training Awards – Q&A Session

The 2019 Queensland Training Awards nomination period is Monday 7 January 2019 to Sunday 17 March 2019. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this celebration of all things outstanding in VET in the North Queensland region.

If you have any questions about the Nomination process and would like a chance to ask our previous winners for advice come along for a QTA Nominations Q&A.

Dates:	Wednesday, 27 February, 2019
Time:	2.30pm—4.00pm
Cost:	Free
Location:	CQ University, Townsville
Register:	<a href="#">Here</a>



## Grants

### Defence Global Competitiveness Grants

This grant provides eligible SMEs with matched funding grants of up to \$150,000 to invest in projects that build Defence export capability to build a stronger, more sustainable and globally competitive Australian Defence industry.

More Information: [Here](#)



### Apply for a Queensland Small Business Week Grant

Small businesses, individuals and organisations are encouraged to apply for an inaugural Small Business Week Grant to host events during QSBW 2019.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available to help deliver innovative events and activities that provide small businesses with the tools they need to thrive.

The Small Business Week Grant is an exciting opportunity for individuals and businesses to take their event to the next level. Event hosts can increase their profile, gain new skills to enhance their own business and network with other small businesses within their region.

Don't miss this opportunity! [Online applications are now open](#) and close on Sunday, 3 March 2019.

### Australia-India Council 2019 Grant Round

The Australia-India Council seeks to advance Australia's foreign and trade policy interests by building awareness and understanding between the peoples and institutions of Australia and India.

Applications Close: 2.00pm EST, Thursday 28 March, 2019

More Information: [Here](#)

### Council on Australia Latin America Relations

The Australian Government established the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) in 2001 to enhance Australia's economic, political and social relations with Latin America.

The Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) Grant Program for 2019-20, for projects commencing between August 2019 and June 2020 will open on 5th February 2019 and close 28th March 2019. There are no major changes to the Strategic Plan or Guidelines for 2019 — potential applicants should review the Strategic Plan and 2019 Guidelines (links below) in preparation for the round opening.

Applications close: Thursday, 28 March, 2019

More information: [Here](#)

### Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities for funding commencing in 2020

The Linkage Program promotes national and international research partnerships between researchers and business, industry, community organisations and other publicly funded research agencies. By supporting the development of partnerships, the ARC encourages the transfer of skills, knowledge and ideas as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.

More information: [Here](#)

### General Fund Grant-making

Applications for the QCF General Fund 2019 grant round are now open. Mid-tier organisations promoting social cohesion and fostering community integration, primarily in the arts, the environment including but not limited to drought, and indigenous languages may be eligible to apply for a grant up to a maximum of \$30,000.

More Information: [Here](#)