

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 by visiting sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business/Business-News.

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

Queensland Government Small Business Connect Newsletter

To keep up to date with all the latest information from the Queensland Government, subscribe to the Queensland Government Small Business Connect Newsletter
<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/support/small-business/connect>

COVID19 and natural disaster support

The 'Coronavirus Business Liaison Unit' on the Australian Government website is a good resource providing up to date information on the Government's response to COVID-19 and the actions that Government is taking to support business and industry across Australia.
treasury.gov.au/policy-topics/business-and-industry/coronavirus-business-liaison-unit.

State and Federal Government support
Business.gov.au see Business Qld.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) business assistance finder
business.qld.gov.au/covid-assistance.

Australian Government Services Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment – Queensland
servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-queensland/who-can-get-it.

Regarding staffing, businesses are welcome to advertise on the 'Jobs Now' section of HOT91.1 hot91.com.au/459-job-board/110208-jobs-now?limit=20&conn=job-board-display&startat=0&event=search or your local TAFE might be of help.

State and territory information, grants and assistance
business.gov.au/SearchResult?query=coronavirusassistance%2C+qld&useAndSearch=true.

Access council's businesses resources
sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business/COVID19-Support-for-Business.

Information regarding the Queensland Small Business Commissioner
business.qld.gov.au/running-business/support-assistance/qsbc.

Hon Dianne (Di) Farmer, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development.
parliament.qld.gov.au/members/current/list/MemberDetails?ID=3172667384.

Professional support programs

Free wellbeing support: B-Well + Prosper Program

This 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
- local activities
- podcasts
- wellbeing calendar
- blogs
- how to access support
- 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, complete the Expression of Interest application form by visiting: bit.ly/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 at business.qld.gov.au/running-business/support-assistance/qsbc by submitting an enquiry or request for help or call 1300 312 344.

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 the Business Queensland website or call the hotline on 1300 654 687. Go to: business.qld.gov.au/running-business/support-assistance/qsbc.

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

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
See video youtube.com/watch?v=smEx-bA7C64
- Assisting businesses applying for finance
See video youtube.com/watch?v=H-Tbc8vejCg
- Business Locations
See video youtube.com/watch?v=LC_0vklRuo0

Developmenti (developmenti.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/) 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 council offices on 10 First Avenue, Maroochydore. Or, this team can be contacted by phone, fax, email, mail.

Go to: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Development/Stay-Connected/Planning-Building-Plumbing-and-Development-Enquiries to see all the options available to you.

Procurement support

Tender alerts

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.

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

Industry Capability Network (ICN)

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.

Workshops

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

Community Grants Program

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.

Go to: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Living-and-Community/Grants-and-Funding.

Sunshine Coast Funding Finder

This 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 <https://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 can 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.

Go to: 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.

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 to: 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

Events

Council's regional events platform, Events.SunshineCoast, brings together all of the region's significant events in one easy to use platform.

Go to: events.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au to register your event.

Council host, deliver, and assist some of Australia's highest profile and most popular events.

Go to: sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Experience-Sunshine-Coast/Events to find out more.

Digital upskilling

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.
Go to: 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 on the Boost with Facebook Australia Group (facebook.com/groups/boost.australia). The Facebook Blueprint site (facebookblueprint.com/student/catalog) 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 free access to specialist digital skills training. Available on-demand to our local community to help build 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.

Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance

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.

Go to: sunshinecoastchamberalliance.com.au to connect.

Buderim 4556 Chamber 4556chamber.com.au.

Caloundra Chamber of Commerce & Industry caloundrachamber.com.au.

Coolumb Business & Tourism coolumbbusinessandtourism.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 aumanufacturing.com.au.

Study Sunshine Coast studysunshinecoast.com.au.

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