

LEVEL UP YOUR BUSINESS

Providing **big** support
for **small** business



Photo: Visit Sunshine Coast

Traditional acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.

Photo: Tourism & Events Queensland

Mayor's message

Welcome to the Level Up Your Business resource guide.

Sunshine Coast Council is a huge supporter of our small business community, and we proudly stand by our commitment to be a Small Business Friendly Council to help local businesses thrive.

Through initiatives outlined in the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), we continue to forge ahead, creating an environment where businesses of all sizes can flourish.

The REDS, with its 20-year vision for sustainable economic growth, has paved the way for our region to become one of Australia's strongest regional economies.

It outlines key actions to build local business capacity, enhance resilience and promote local procurement opportunities.

In line with this commitment, the Level Up Your Business resource guide is tailored to support small businesses like yours.

The guide provides valuable information, tools, programs and networks to assist you whenever you need it, in all stages of business development, including starting, maintaining and scaling your business.

Thank you for choosing the Sunshine Coast as the place for your business to thrive.

Together we will continue to nurture a thriving business environment and create opportunities that strengthen our local economy, now and into the future.



Mayor Rosanna Natoli
Sunshine Coast Council





Photo: Visit Sunshine Coast



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How can we help you?

Sunshine Coast Council's **Level Up Your Business** program connects you to small business resources, tools, programs, procurement opportunities and referrals to networks that support your business development and resilience.

We work with all levels of government, chambers of commerce and industry groups to deliver initiatives that inform, educate and connect you when you need it.

To connect with the Local Business Support team email:

businessdevelopment@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Subscribe to our **Business e-newsletter** and learn more at

levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



Information may be updated regularly.
To access a live digital version please
scan the QR code.



How do we support?



1:1 Business support



Connections to grants and funding



Workshops and programs



Connections to key contacts



Business tools and resources



Information on business events



Emergency event preparedness



Network building



Business resources

We have compiled an extensive suite of business support tools and resources for your local business on the Level Up Your Business website. Discover practical ways to plan, review and grow your business. Find everything from steps to starting your business, training and support programs and much more.

levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

The Queensland Government's Business Queensland site is a comprehensive online resource for your small business. This website will guide you through everything you need to start and run a business. Search for the Business Launchpad, to find the licences and permits you need to start your business.

business.qld.gov.au/starting-business

Council's business support pages can help you in all stages of business development including starting, maintaining and scaling your business. Find information on permits, innovation, data, events, investment and how to prepare your business for disruptions.

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/business





The Business Assist service, delivered by the Queensland Government provides free local support to help your small business navigate the right programs, grants, tools and resources tailored to your unique needs.

business.qld.gov.au

The Australian Business Licence Information Service (ABLIS) assists with identifying relevant state, territory, local and Australian government licences, permits, approvals, regulations and codes of practice in an easy to use tool.

ablis.business.gov.au

Self-Employment Assistance is a federally funded program that helps turn your business idea or existing small business into a viable business. It offers free training, mentoring, and support to build your skills and confidence.

dewr.gov.au/self-employment-assistance

AusIndustry supports your business by offering grants, expert advice and programs that boost innovation, growth and resilience to help you scale, stay competitive and navigate economic challenges.

industry.gov.au

The Small Business Hotline by Business Queensland can provide information on support programs, grants and services. **1300 654 687**

Business planning

We have collaborated with TAFE Queensland to deliver the Build a Better Business program. This practical course empowers you to develop a tailored business action plan, including finance, marketing and implementation plans for your business. On successful completion of the course, you receive a Certificate IV in Entrepreneurship and New Business.

To find out more, email:
businessdevelopment@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

The University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) delivers a free business planning course providing you with strategic skills and knowledge to help future-proof your business. Workshops are delivered online and in-person and include expert, tailored feedback for your business.

usc.edu.au



Photo: Tourism & Events Queensland



Business mentoring

You can engage with an experienced business mentor by registering for a free Mentoring for Growth session by Business Queensland. Discuss challenges and opportunities your business is facing such as growth strategies, marketing, finance, human resources, export and more.

business.qld.gov.au

The Business Wellness Coaching service offers free and confidential emotional coaching and wellbeing support to small business owners. Access available support to learn how to plan and grow in a changing economy.

sbfcssq.org.au/wellness

Business Mentors Sunshine Coast offers a year of expert mentorship at an unbeatable price. Gain access to two experienced business mentors to help you achieve your goals, tackle challenges and unlock new opportunities.

businessmentorssc.org.au

Grants and funding

Council's free Sunshine Coast Funding Finder platform brings together all local, state, federal and private grants offered nation-wide. Register to receive email alerts about funding programs relevant to your business.

grantguru.com/au/sunshinecoast

The Queensland Government offers a range of small business grants to help your business grow, along with tips and webinars to help you find, prepare and write your grant application.

business.qld.gov.au

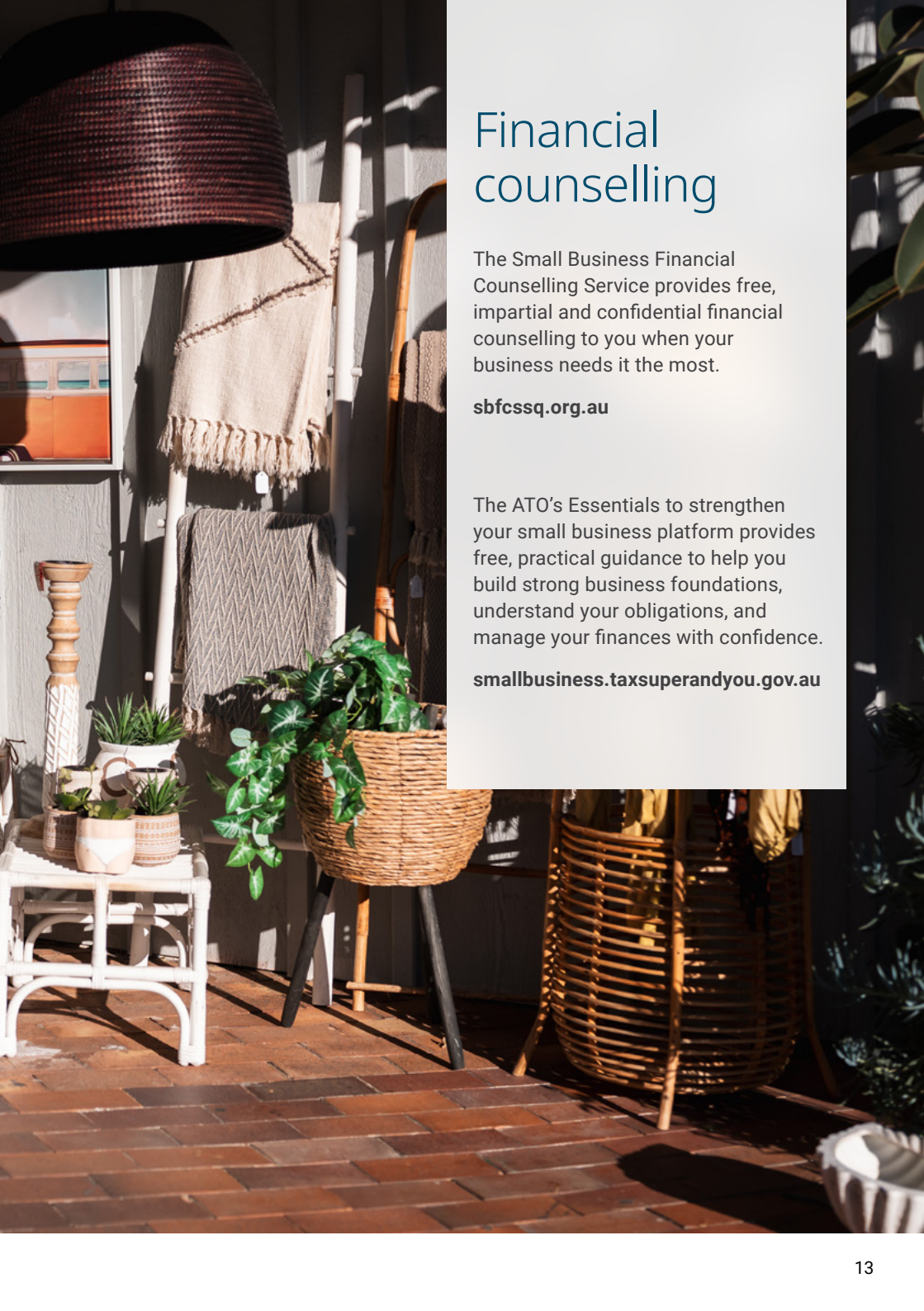
Learn about different ways to fund your business including loans, grants and crowdfunding.

business.gov.au

Find funding, mentorship, accelerator programs, and other opportunities to grow your idea, project, or business.

advance.qld.gov.au





Financial counselling

The Small Business Financial Counselling Service provides free, impartial and confidential financial counselling to you when your business needs it the most.

sbfcssq.org.au

The ATO's Essentials to strengthen your small business platform provides free, practical guidance to help you build strong business foundations, understand your obligations, and manage your finances with confidence.

smallbusiness.taxsuperandyou.gov.au

Continuity planning

The Resilient Business Series is a self-paced monthly program guiding small businesses through an editable continuity planning template. This program helps you prepare for, respond to and recover from disruptions.

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/business

Use the resources on the Small Business Disaster Hub to plan, prepare and respond when disaster hits so you can get back to business sooner and recover faster.

business.qld.gov.au

During an emergency event visit the Sunshine Coast Disaster Hub for real time information on road closures, evacuation centres, alerts and more.

disasterhub.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Cyber Wardens is a free training program that helps you improve cyber safety. Learn simple, practical steps to protect your business from online threats.

cyberwardens.com.au

IDCARE's free Small Business Cyber Resilience Service provides tailored advice to help you respond to cyber incidents, strengthen security and access wellbeing support. For free guidance after an incident, call 1800 595 170.

idcare.org/smallbusiness

UniSC offers free Continuity Planning and Workforce Planning courses designed to equip you with the skills to develop a robust business continuity plan and a responsive workforce plan that adapts to change and overcomes challenges.

usc.edu.au

Workforce planning

The Sunshine Coast Jobs Hub is a central platform connecting job seekers with local employers and showcasing diverse career opportunities in the region. Post jobs for free and find the right talent.

scjobs.com.au

Transform your workforce with the Workforce Evolve program from Business Chamber Queensland. This free e-learning program offers six flexible online modules to help you develop a recruitment strategy and unlock a new segment of job seekers.

businesschamberqld.com.au

The Industry Workforce Advisor program offers free support to help you plan your workforce needs, overcome recruitment challenges, and access relevant grants and incentives. Advisors work with you to create a tailored workforce strategy.

business.qld.gov.au

Digital upskilling

The Digital Solutions program offers one-on-one mentoring and free workshops to provide you with the skills and knowledge to enhance your business performance. Work with an expert mentor to develop a Digital Action Plan or attend free workshops covering topics that will save you time, money and help your business grow.

busybusiness.com.au

View these UniSC short courses and micro credentials tailored for business to improve your digital skills including support in brand management, social media, AI and much more.

usc.edu.au

Council's Level Up digital upskilling tools can help you improve online presence, boost digital skills and stay competitive. Access free, easy-to-follow resources on websites, social media, eCommerce and more.

levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Supply and procurement

We're committed to helping local suppliers build capability, boost competitiveness and access more supply-chain opportunities. Explore resources and fact sheets to support you in doing business with Council.

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/business

Sign up to Council's tender alert service to receive email notifications about new tenders relevant to your business, as well as updates on upcoming Doing Business with Council workshops and Supplier Briefings to help you build capability and identify procurement opportunities.

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/business

ecoBiz is a free program that helps small businesses save costs, build practical sustainability capabilities and align with government and corporate buyer expectations, with access to expert coaching, online tools and resources.

businesschamberqld.com.au





Government and corporate buyers are reducing emissions across supply chains. Businesses that align with these expectations can become more competitive and win work. Find online resources, practical information and templates to support resource efficiency and decarbonisation.

business.gov.au

Visit [Level Up Your Business](https://levelup.yourbusiness.gov.au) to access a wide range of information, resources and programs that support supplier capability development. The platform brings together key insights from all levels of government, including dedicated resources for supplying to Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, along with procurement priorities, guidance on ESG practices (environmental, social and governance) and more.

levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

The Queensland Government delivers events and workshops to help small businesses with tendering, capability statements and procurement readiness. These sessions offer practical support to build skills, connect with buyers and access upcoming opportunities.

statedevelopment.qld.gov.au



Support networks

The fabric of collaboration is a supportive and collaborative ecosystem of chambers of commerce and industry groups here to support your business.

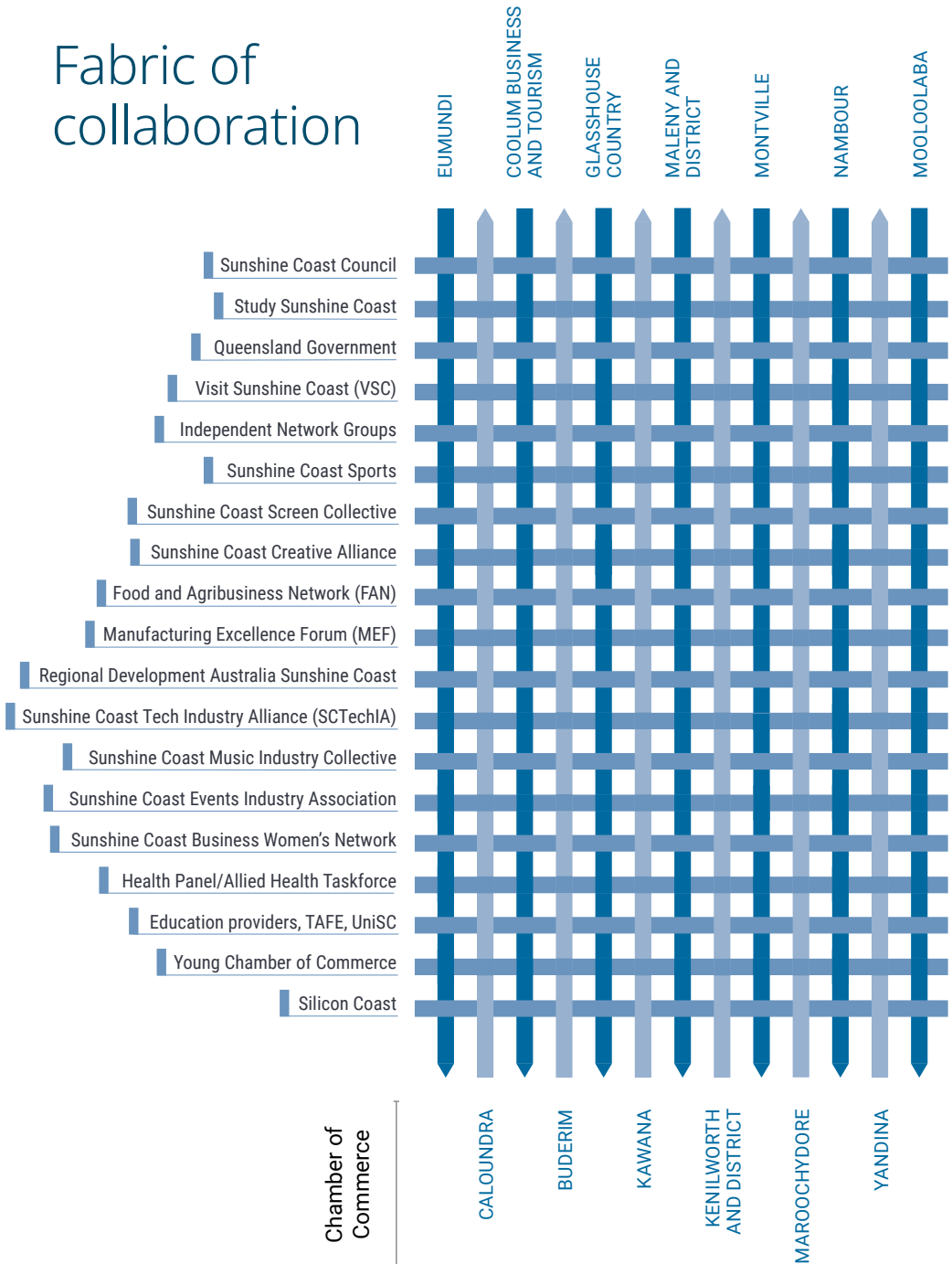
Becoming a member of a chamber of commerce or industry group can provide immeasurable benefits. While actively promoting your business, they also advocate for your local and broader communities, they facilitate relationships, and ensure your business can collaborate to create opportunities for yourselves, your partners and your clients.

levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

The Queensland Small Business Commissioner (QSBC) provides assistance and advocacy for your small business including support in business disagreements.

qsbc.qld.gov.au

Fabric of collaboration





levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
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