

# 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.**

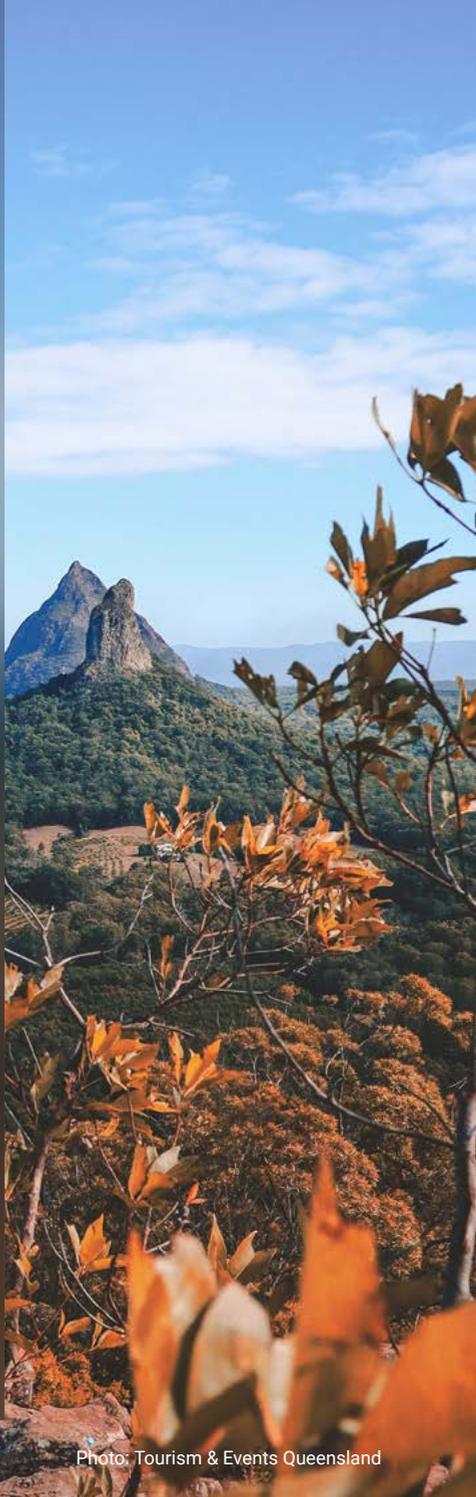


Photo: Tourism & Events Queensland

# 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](mailto:businessdevelopment@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)**

Subscribe to our **Business e-newsletter** and learn more at  
**[levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://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.

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](https://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](https://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/business)**





The Queensland Government's Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) hosts a range of programs, support, tools, events and workshops to support your small business to start, grow and employ.

**[desbt.qld.gov.au](https://desbt.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](https://ablis.business.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**

UniSC delivers a free business planning course providing you with strategic skills and knowledge to help future-proof your business. Over the seven weeks of workshops, you will build a business plan that will be presented to an expert panel and gain valuable feedback specific to 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](https://business.qld.gov.au)**

The Business Wellness Coaching Service offers free and confidential emotional coaching and wellbeing support to Sunshine Coast businesses. Access available support to learn how to plan and grow in a changing economy.

**[sbcfcssq.org.au/wellness](https://sbcfcssq.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](https://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](https://grantguru.com/au/sunshinecoast)**

The Queensland Government's Department of Employment, Small Business and Training has small business grants and programs available to help your small business thrive.

**[desbt.qld.gov.au](https://desbt.qld.gov.au)**

Find advice and support on how to find, prepare and write your grant application, including helpful tips and webinars provided by Business Queensland.

**[business.qld.gov.au](https://business.qld.gov.au)**

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

**[business.gov.au](https://business.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](http://sbfcssq.org.au)

# Continuity planning

Business continuity planning is designed to help you avoid and mitigate risks during business disruptions. Find resources and programs to build your business resilience at Level Up Your Business.

**[levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)**

UniSC offers a free Continuity Planning course designed to empower you with the skills to develop a robust Business Continuity Plan.

**[usc.edu.au](http://usc.edu.au)**

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](http://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](http://disasterhub.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)**

# Workforce planning

The Sunshine Coast Jobs Hub is a one-stop platform for employment on the Sunshine Coast. The Jobs Hub connects job seekers with local industry and job opportunities, and attracts talent to the region by showcasing the regions diverse career opportunities. Promote your job opportunities for free and find the right talent.

**[scjobs.com.au](http://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](http://businesschamberqld.com.au)**



# Digital upskilling

Learn about alternative recruitment practices to develop your workforce in the Hiring Outside the Box webinar series delivered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

**[dewr.gov.au](http://dewr.gov.au)**

Discover this free Workforce Planning course delivered by UniSC designed to help you develop a workforce plan that responds to change and overcomes challenges.

**[usc.edu.au](http://usc.edu.au)**

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.

**[businessshq.org.au](http://businessshq.org.au)**

Discover thousands of free digital training courses on the Digital Skills Hub by Business Chamber Queensland. Find a variety of modules and courses starting from the basics to cyber security, social media, analytics, AI and much more.

**[businesschamberqld.com.au](http://businesschamberqld.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](http://usc.edu.au)**

# Sustainable business

ecoBiz Queensland is a free program designed to help your small business reduce your power, water and waste bills. Work with a sustainability expert to develop an action plan to save your business money and increase efficiencies.

**[businesschamberqld.com.au](http://businesschamberqld.com.au)**

ASPIRE is a circular economy matchmaking tool allowing businesses to buy, sell or exchange waste or unwanted resources. Free for Sunshine Coast businesses employing up to 100 staff, create a profile and exchange resources to help reduce waste, save costs and create potential revenue streams.

**[sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)**



## Working with Council

We are committed to supporting local businesses by generating employment opportunities, strengthening local supply chains, supporting competitive local business development and dedicated to supporting local procurement opportunities.

Sign up to Council's tender alert service to receive an email alert when a new tender opportunity in your industry is advertised.

**[sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)**

We've partnered with the Industry Capability Network (ICN), a powerful procurement and supply chain tool that helps suppliers find projects and project owners find suppliers. Create your profile, search billions of dollars' worth of projects and set up a 'project alert' notification to stay up to date.

**[gateway.icn.org.au](http://gateway.icn.org.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.

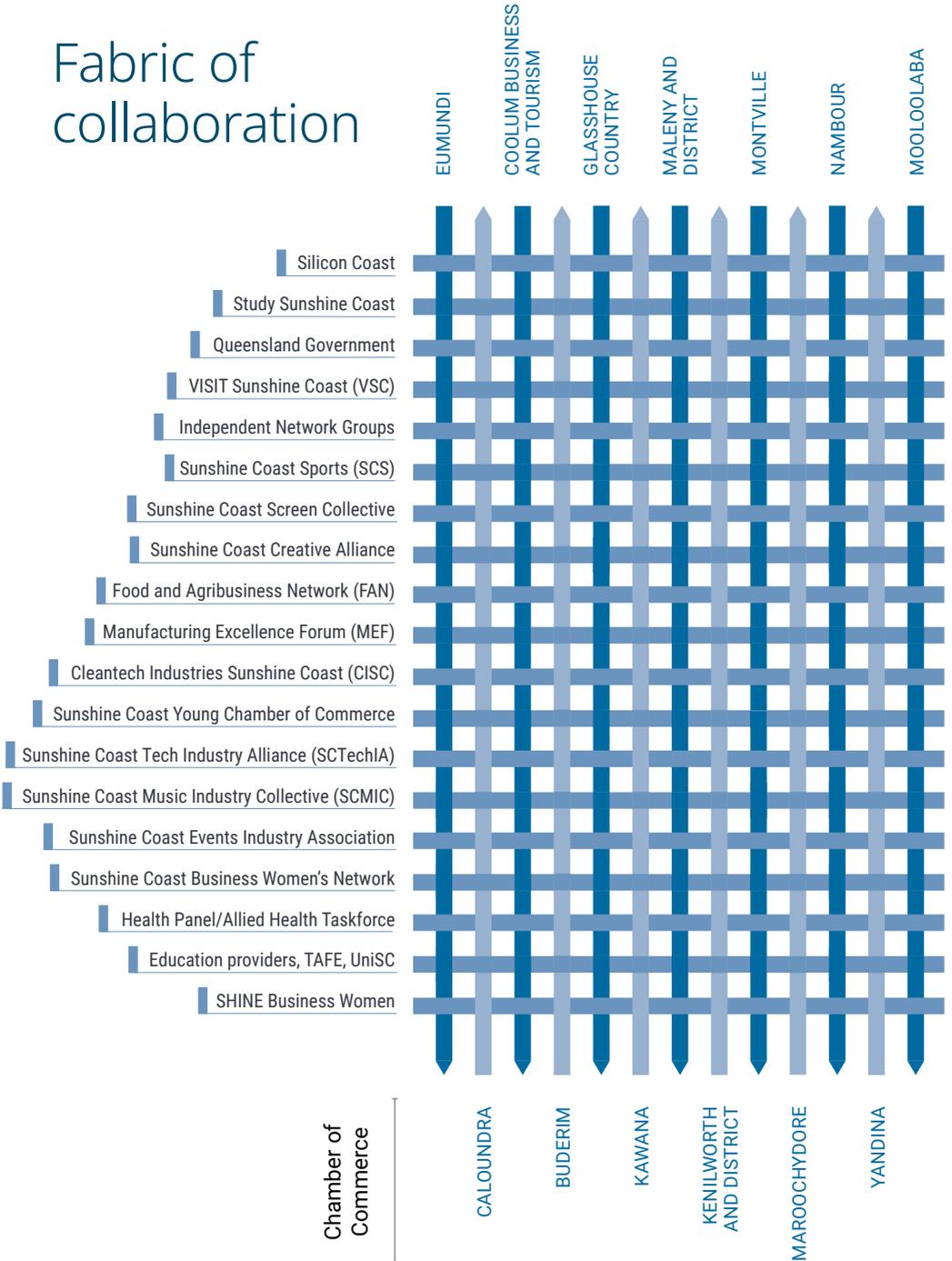
Becoming a member of a Chamber of Commerce or Industry Group can provide immeasurable benefits. While actively promoting your business, they also advocate for your local and broader communities, they facilitate relationships, and ensure your business can collaborate to create opportunities for yourselves,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

**[levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://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](http://qsbc.qld.gov.au)**

# Fabric of collaboration





**[levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://levelup.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)**  
**[businessdevelopment@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:businessdevelopment@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)**  
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