



# Annual Report on Outcomes (Abridged)

2021 to 2022

RDA Logan & Redlands Inc

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The past 3 years has seen unprecedented, concurrent impacts on Australia’s economic, social and natural environments. This has included:

- instability in geo political conditions;
- fires;
- floods;
- drought;
- an enduring pandemic;
- changing work practices;
- a growing call for and reliance on publicly funded business and employee assistance; and
- heightened internal migration.

This changing world has had a major impact on Logan and the Redlands and draws attention to this often overlooked Region.

At its 26 April 2022 meeting the RDA Logan & Redlands Board reiterated its standing principles as follows:

- The RDA is about long term advocacy;
- The horizon for the RDA’s work is 20 to 25 years bridging key initiatives such as Inland Rail opportunities, the SEQ Olympics and Paralympics and the SEQ City Deal; and
- In its operations the RDA does not replicate nor duplicate the work of others.

At this meeting the Board also agreed:

... the RDA will proceed to raise a Strategic Regional Plan and develop a Summit addressing investment in the Logan and Redlands Region.

Stage 1 is the development of the Strategic Regional Plan (the successor to *Logan and Redlands: The Centre of Economic and Employment Growth for Queensland*<sup>1</sup>). Reflecting the RDA’s commitment to wide and inclusive consultation, it is concurrently developing a Summit to be held on 29 September 2022.

The Strategic Regional Plan is progressing with further industry and stakeholder consultation driving and shaping the strategy. The focus remains on ensuring the future overall economic and social wellbeing of the Region. Work has ensured the capture of data and research within the Region of Logan, Redlands and surrounding Local Government Areas (LGAs) with continued effort on understanding in greater depth the needs and barriers to success for the Region.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rdaloganandredlands.org.au/latest-news/160-rda-logan-redlands-releases-position-paper-for-region>

This reflects the focus of the RDA since 2019 when the majority of the current Board were appointed and:

- determined to build a comprehensive picture of the region;
- identify opportunities to improve the economic, social and environmental future of the region; and
- extend considerations for the region into the broader South East Queensland, Queensland, Australian and international contexts.

In October 2020 the RDA released *Logan and Redlands: The Centre of Economic and Employment Growth for Queensland* which captured key issues and areas of focus. A key activity for the RDA has been reviewing this document to reflect current and emerging opportunities with the intention of challenging the thinking around planning for the Region as the basis for the release of the Strategic Regional Plan.

This document confirmed priority expenditure in outer suburbs is per capita lower than inner city areas, but in addition, road and rail transit corridors in and around the Logan and Redlands Region have been about “passing through” rather than “getting around” the Region. In short, infrastructure expenditure needs to better match the needs of the Region to unleash its strategic importance to economic and employment growth.

It is within this environment the RDA continues to pursue its determined corporate goal of ensuring the Logan and Redlands Region will be at the centre of economic and employment growth for South East Queensland, Queensland statewide and Australia wide.

The Logan and Redlands Region (the Region) lies at the southern boundary of the Brisbane Local Government Area, the northern boundary of the Gold Coast and Scenic Rim Local Government Areas and the eastern boundary of the Ipswich Local Government Area. It is at the heart of transport, logistics, light manufacturing and suburban expansion in South East Queensland. This makes the Region one of the most dynamic, high growth and economically, socially and environmentally important regions of Australia.

The Region is strategically positioned within the growth corridor for South East Queensland and is ripe for development. It has substantial economic capacity in the areas of Health Care and Social Assistance; Advanced Manufacturing; Infrastructure; Transport, Logistics and Warehousing; Education and Training; Professional Services; Tourism; and Research. The opportunity exists to translate this capacity into sustainable economic growth.

The increasing demands being placed on the South East Queensland region through drivers for investment such as the 2032 SEQ Olympic and Paralympic Games, the SEQ City Deal, the Queensland State Infrastructure Strategy 2022, Inland Rail and linking to the Infrastructure Australia Gaps Report(s) are compelling evidence of the need to focus on how the region will leverage opportunities to achieve economic and social advantage.

South East Queensland has seen unprecedented population growth over the past few years with the recent pandemic driving northern migration decisions by people away from southern major cities and regions such as Sydney and Melbourne. This growth in population has meant demand for skills has increased. With the current employment situation and compounding skills shortages the responsibility for all levels of Governments, stakeholders and policy leaders is to drive capitalising on the opportunity for South East Queensland to compete on the world stage.

This means recognising and addressing:

- the growing demand on key infrastructure (transport, logistics, health care, age care etc);
- the infrastructure gaps throughout the region with resultant global and domestic supply issues;
- the population surge which can only be managed efficiently through policy, program and priority focus;
- the lack of affordable housing, transport network inadequacies and a lack of timely and efficient health care and education options; and
- areas suffering major economic disadvantage with a lack of reliable infrastructure and major housing and transport issues.

## **Redlands**

Redland City (or as it is more commonly known, the Redlands) is a diverse natural area spread along the mainland coast of Southern Moreton Bay and into the adjacent populated islands. It is full of natural attractions being home to over 1,400 conservation areas, parks and reserves. The Redlands is strongly characterised by small business and has a strong local business outlook. Its key characteristics are <sup>2</sup>:

- Small business (less than 20 employees) : 98.4% of all businesses.
- 51.5% of Redland City's working residents travel outside of the region to work.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population : 2.3% of total population.
- Overseas born : 23%.
- > 60 years of age : 24.2%.
- Top 4 industries by employment size : Health Care and Social Assistance (15.7%); Retail (13.4%); Construction (10.9%); and Education and Training (10.5%).
- Largest industries contributing GRP: Health care and social assistance, Manufacturing, Construction, Retail trade, Education and training.

The Redlands has an ageing population with the median age (42) considerably higher than surrounding LGA's and Australia's median age (38). This demographic trend means the area is in need of further health care and social assistance and greater access to labour and facilities.

The area has strong education outcomes among the population with nearly 25% of residents holding a vocational qualification and a further 15% with a bachelor's degree or higher, according to 2016 census data.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://economy.id.com.au/redland>

Within the Redlands are the Southern Moreton Bay Islands (comprising Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra Islands), Coochiemudlo Island and North Stradbroke Island. The islands represent a smaller section of the population of the Redlands but each has its own unique challenges, opportunities and priorities that need addressing. The population of the islands had grown by 2021 to be over 10,500 people living fulltime among the 6 islands.

The islands face many similar issues around insufficient infrastructure, high unemployment and a difficulty in access to key essential infrastructure and services. Infrastructure needs in the future require investment and for government to explore the viable options to aid in the future of life and business on the islands.

Currently North Stradbroke Island struggles majorly in business life with a lack of staff accessibility on the islands due to housing shortages and limited ferry services (particularly in the early and late hours). Despite being controversial between some residents and Council, alternate connections between some islands warrants consideration (e.g., the distance between some islands is measured in metres).

All islands stakeholders identified the need for:

- better community consultation on local investment, infrastructure and community needs;
- better, more affordable transport options, not only inter island and mainland connections but further penetration into the Redlands, Logan, Brisbane, Gold Coast etc;
- labour force growth and better skills and training opportunities for island residents;
- health and social services care, particularly to support the ageing populations on the islands and maintain adequate support for long term residents;
- ensuring island growth is looked at with long term sustainability in mind; and
- being more proactive in selling the Bay islands as an asset rather than a liability and promote the islands as an ideal location to invest.

The Redlands has major opportunities for economic growth. Under capitalised potential particularly in the tourism sector along the Redlands Coast, the Southern Morton Bay Islands and North Stradbroke Island all offer a wealth of opportunity.

The Redlands has seen a major increase in investment, with a current 10-year pipeline of investment worth an estimated \$6 billion. The pipeline is made up of 138 individual projects set to create employment opportunities, increase infrastructure in the region and attract more visitors and residence. Efficiencies to ensure full benefit from the pipeline demands better transport infrastructure, east west connectivity and a greater capacity of essential infrastructure to ensure long term prosperity in the region.

The economic features of the Redlands are:

- 161,730 : Population.
- 188,400 : Population expected by 2041.
- \$6.6b : Gross Regional Product.
- 48,023 : Local Jobs.
- 11,855 : Local businesses.
- 98.4% of all businesses in Redlands are SME.

## Logan

The City of Logan has a large and culturally diverse population across a wide geographic area, from the heavily populated north and east of the city through to the semi-rural or rural communities of the west and south. The city is home to people from 217 cultural backgrounds who speak more than 50 languages. Logan residents have strong ties to their heritage and cultural traditions. Logan has a strong indigenous heritage with close to 10,000 residents identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Its key characteristics are <sup>3</sup>:

- Small business (less than 20 employees) : 97.9% of all businesses.
- 54.2% of Logan City's working residents travel outside of the region to work.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait population : 3.2% of total population.
- Overseas born : 27%.
- > 60 years of age : 17%.
- Top 4 industries by employment size: Construction (19.9%); Retail (10.4%); Health Care and Social Assistance (12%); and Education and Training (9.0%).
- Largest industries contributing GRP: Health care and social assistance, Construction, Manufacturing, Retail trade, Education and training, Wholesale trade.
- Estimated population growth in Logan is set to exceed 550,000 residents by 2041.

The City of Logan has a young community, with the median age (34) reasonably lower than the median age in the rest of Queensland (37). The young and diverse socioeconomic make up of Logan sets it apart from most economies in Australia, where an ageing population is more typical. Logan has a significant economic advantage among the age of its labour force. However, to harness the full potential of the region's population further access to training, infrastructure, facilities and education around pathway options need to be available.

Logan is in a unique position in the region. It is currently a major manufacturing hub and boasts untapped land potential.

The economic features of Logan are:

- 350,740 : Population.
- 550,000 : Population expected by 2041.
- \$14.36b : Gross Regional Product.
- 117,248 : Local Jobs.
- 23,409 : Local businesses.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://economy.id.com.au/logan>

## South East Queensland

As noted above, the increasing demands being placed on the South East Queensland region through drivers for investment such as the 2032 SEQ Olympic and Paralympic Games, the SEQ City Deal, the Queensland State Infrastructure Strategy 2022, Inland Rail and linking to the Infrastructure Australia Gaps Report(s) are compelling evidence of the need to focus on how the region will leverage opportunities to achieve economic and social advantage.

South East Queensland is a hive of activity at present. Securing the Olympic and Paralympic Games for South East Queensland for 2032 provides a platform for a major economic boost to the region which is already seeing increased investment around potential games venues and infrastructure. Queensland has the opportunity through such a major world event to drive the post games period and ensure infrastructure and investment aligned with the long term goals of the region. Looking to 2042 and population projections over the intervening period the region must adapt now to manage economic growth, sustain social responsibility and maintain regional amenities.

However, the Region's ambitions are blunted as it has not received sufficient infrastructure investment particularly when the projected population growth is factored in. The *2021 Intergenerational Report : Australia over the next 40 years* (June 2021) while moderating expectations around population growth still expects growth. The Report noted:

Australia's population is projected to grow faster than most other developed countries and reach 38.8 million in 2060-61.

Throughout the immediate past, the RDA's work has included continuing extensive consultations with key stakeholders, engaging resources to capture and categorise data and raising its position paper that captured the focus for the Board's strategic discussions.

In acknowledging the previous focus of the country was on COVID-19, the RDA maintained its efforts to ensure the voice of the Logan and Redlands Region was heard reflecting the RDA's determined corporate goal to ensure the Region will be at the centre of economic and employment growth for South East Queensland, statewide Queensland and Australia wide.

This commitment was driven through a process which positions the RDA well to continue its strategic leadership for the economic development and social cohesion for the Region.

It is reflected in the bold position taken by the Board to elevate and accelerate its previously noted standing principles of:

- being about long term advocacy;
- setting the horizon for the RDA's work at 20 to 25 years bridging key initiatives such as Inland Rail opportunities, the SEQ Olympics and Paralympics and the SEQ City Deal; and
- in its operations not replicating nor duplicating the work of others.

This position is at the core of the RDA's 2021 to 2022 Plan which included the following:

As a concept, the RDA is considering a major regional investment Conference (2 day plus field trips) in partnership with Commonwealth, Queensland and Logan and Redland local Governments, Economic Development and Investment agencies, businesses, chambers of commerce, community and cultural groups (with contributions and sponsorships and possibly exhibitions to defray costs) at a time in a year which best presents the region.

Participants could include:

- Infrastructure Australia;
- Brisbane 2032 Committee and the Australian Olympic Committee;
- SEQ City Deal;
- Inland Rail;
- SEQ Council of Mayors;
- Key major infrastructure developers operating in the region (Lendlease; Walker Group; and Shayher Group);
- Business support industries (financial management, banks etc);
- Research facilities (e.g., Department of Agriculture and Fisheries);
- Universities (University of Queensland; Griffith University; Queensland University of Technology);
- Vocational Skilling entities (TAFE, AITC);
- Schools; and
- Island Progress Associations.

The conference would be about what happens within the region (rather than brand marketing to grow a business or a show and tell opportunity) and a requirement to speculate on and add value to the region's profile as a lifestyle and business destination with case studies of opportunities being taken forward. The lead in and lead out activities must include analysis of and identification of opportunities for regional investment.

Such an event would profile the RDA, directly facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, jobs and local procurement and support the RDA Charter, Commonwealth regional priorities and funding agreement outcomes which are the foundations of the Strategic Regional Plan being developed.

Over the period July to December 2021 the RDA through its Board will lead the development and launch of the Logan and Redlands Strategic Regional Plan by:

- identifying all relevant plans for the Region and ensuring completeness of the Region's Stakeholder map.
- developing a concordance between identified Plans and the Regional Australia Charter; the Australian Government's regional priorities; and the Outcomes and Performance Indicators from the 2021 to 2025 funding agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the RDA.

- holding initial discussions with relevant organisations through which information of Plan status (e.g., regulatory requirement) and contacts are identified.
- considering and overseeing regular reported findings and proposed consultation schedules.
- engaging in Committee led consultations with government representatives, businesses and their representative organisations and community representatives.
- developing the draft Strategic Regional Plan.
- testing the draft Plan with all inputting stakeholders.
- signing off on the Plan (accepting not going to get consensus).
- launching the Plan with key stakeholders and maintenance arrangements (noting 3 to 5 year horizon).

To ensure local and key stakeholder buy in, the RDA implemented more direct engagement activities. During 2021 to 2022 the RDA Board continued to centre its 2 monthly meetings around a focussed, strategic discussion through which regional information, contacts and areas of focus are identified, discussed and prioritised.

Over 2021 to 2022 the Board has held meetings at Springwood, Sirromet (Mount Cotton), Indigiscapes (Capalaba), Spirit of the Red Sands (Beenleigh), North Stradbroke and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and the Yarrabilba Secondary College.

For its August 2021 meeting in Springwood the Board invited the Presidents of the 6 regional Chambers of Commerce to meet . The meeting was framed around key regional initiatives and their relationship to the under development Strategic Regional Plan.

For its October 2021 meeting at Indigiscapes the Board invited several businesses to discuss jobs and skilling across the Logan and Redlands region. Guests participating came from Lendlease; Home Instead Logan and Redlands; and Australian Industry Trade College.

The Board's December 2021 meeting was held at the Spirit of the Red Sands, Beenleigh Historical Village. This location was a Gold Medal winner at the 2021 Australian Tourism Awards and shares 60,000 years of culture through immersive and interactive Aboriginal storytelling experiences.

In April 2022, the Board travelled to North Stradbroke and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands to hold its Board meeting and meet with businesses, Indigenous representatives and community representatives from across the Redlands Coast islands. The Board travelled to the islands to hear directly about the challenges and opportunities being faced as the islands recover from the social and economic impacts of the pandemic and begin to explore the opportunities arising from the recent signing of the SEQ City Deal and as preparations for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are pursued.

The Board's June 2022 meeting was held in Yarrabilba (a Lendlease master planned community) in South Western Logan.

Broadly, guests at all Board meetings were asked to:

- Identify their top 3 priorities (specific rather than for example “general infrastructure”);
- Contextualise these into the broader economic development and social investment strategies for the Region;
- Outline the risk of these not happening;
- Outlining the benefit and broader ripple effect of these happening;
- Provide advice on funding; and
- Outline their role in documenting the case and leading advocacy.

The Board came away from its meetings with businesses and community representatives with a substantially deeper understanding of the issues confronting the local economy and the residents of the region.

This is being captured in the Strategic Regional Plan currently under development. This will ensure the Plan is an evidence based document which is built on the premise the Redlands and Logan region is at the centre of economic and employment growth for South East Queensland, statewide Queensland and Australia wide.

In addition to the above, in undertaking its work the RDA regularly meets individually and collectively with key stakeholders on issues relevant to the Region as they relate to the RDA’s strategic document and the RDA’s roles under the Regional Development Australia Charter. These include but are not limited to:

- Redland City Council;
- Logan City Council;
- Beenleigh Yatala Chamber of Commerce;
- Logan Chamber of Commerce;
- Logan Regional Chamber of Commerce;
- Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce;
- Southern Moreton Bay Islands Chamber of Commerce;
- Straddie Chamber of Commerce;
- Local community organisations;
- Local businesses;
- Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning;
- Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training;
- Education Queensland;
- Jobs Queensland;
- RDA Committees from around the broader South East Queensland region; and
- Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

In the period July to September 2021, the RDA:

- participated in meeting with Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce on Redland Coast Business Excellence Awards 2021;
- held several meetings in relation to developing a Southern Queensland internal migration strategy and framework;
- participated in South East Queensland RDAs' video conference meetings with Commonwealth Minister;
- participated in Redland City Council Financial and Economic Recovery Task Force meeting;
- presented at Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce breakfast members meeting and awards launch;
- participated in National Priority Fund 2021 to 2025 teleconference;
- met with the Australian Industry Trade College;
- met with Textile, Clothing and Footwear business and Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning officials regarding skills availability;
- met with Health Commons facilitators;
- participated in bi-monthly Logan Council/Chamber of Commerce Presidents meeting;
- undertook Disaster Management Training with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services;
- met with Freelance Robotics;
- participated in Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce Business Awards;
- met with HLB Mann Judd;
- met with Logan City Council officers;
- attended Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting;
- met with Redland City Council officers;
- attended Suburban Alliance's Reshaping SEQ event with presentations from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Logan City;
- held discussions with Lendlease (Shoreline and Yarrabilba);
- met with The Sycamore School;
- participated as a member at the Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton Community Consultative Committee meeting;
- met with Queensland Member of Parliament;
- participated in Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce Business Awards;
- attended address by Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner;
- met with Gold Coast Manufacturing Hub;
- participated in SEQ RDA Alliance forum;
- participated in Redland City Council Building Resilient Regional Leaders Initiative (Pilot) forum;
- met with STAR Community Services in relation to Building Better Regions Fund;
- participated as a member of Redlands Job Committee Quarterly Committee Meeting;
- participated in forum on Global Labour Shortage; and
- participated in Queensland Draft State Infrastructure Strategy - online briefing.

In the period October to December 2021, the RDA:

- met with Cleveland High School;
- participated in the CEDA event - The care economy;
- participated in the Gold Coast Manufacturing Hub forum;
- engaged with RDA Wheatbelt and RDA Moreton Bay on NDIS Thin Markets;
- met with Merino Country in relation to skill shortages;
- held meeting with Lendlease, Home Instead Logan and Redlands and the Australian Industry Trade College as part of the RDA Logan & Redlands Board meeting;
- participated in and sponsored the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards;
- participated in Champion Redlands Coast Industry Leaders Event;
- participated in Logan City Council and Chamber of Commerce Presidents Meeting;
- participated in South East Queensland City Deal Industry Forum hosted by Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning;
- participated in South East Queensland City Deal Industry Reference Group hosted by the Commonwealth;
- participated in and sponsored the Redlands Coast Business and Jobs Expo;
- attended presentation on Freight Data Hub and Supply Chain Benchmarking Dashboard;
- met with research lead from Champion Redlands Coast;
- participated in Regional Intelligence Briefing hosted by The Hon Nola Marino;
- submitted to the Inland Rail Program's community survey;
- attended the Regionalisation: National Address by Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie;
- attended Post-COVID potential for a world in recovery presented by Austrade and Export Finance Australia;
- participated in RDA Darling Downs and South West Digital Connectivity Webinar Series;
- participated in Infrastructure Australia's Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gaps forum;
- participated in CEDA event – Is Australia's big Infrastructure spend delivering value?;
- participated in Champion Redlands Coast research briefing;
- participated in Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Future event;
- participated in the launch of the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal's *Heartbeat of Rural Australia Study: How are NFP and Community groups faring*;
- participated in the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources' Business Grants Hub information webinar on BBRF Round 6;
- met with Merino Country in relation to higher level sewing skills;
- met with officials from Redland City Council;
- contributed to the Forward scan survey;
- contributed to the National skills Commission request for information; and
- contributed to Infrastructure Australia request for information.

In the period January to March 2022, the RDA:

- visited Southern Moreton Bay Islands stakeholders;
- participated in the CEDA *The great resignation? A job market update* webinar;
- undertook meetings with key Commonwealth Ministers;

- participated in the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce rebranding launch;
- met with officials from Redland City Council on emerging regional issues;
- participated in Logan Chambers of Commerce Presidents / Logan City Council bimonthly meetings;
- met with officials from Redland City Council on Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 submissions;
- participated in the CEDA Livestream *Economic and Political Outlook 2022*;
- participated in Beenleigh Yatala Chamber of Commerce industry breakfast;
- met with officials from Redland City Council on its Redlands Sport and Recreation Precinct project;
- participated in the RDA Town Hall Briefing with Minister Trevor Evans on waste reduction and recycling;
- attended the Suburban Futures breakfast;
- participated as a member of the Inland Rail Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton Community Consultative Committee meeting;
- participated in AUSTROADS' : *National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy* webinar;
- met with OneSolomons;
- participated in a Redlands Angels event;
- attended Mann Judd industry breakfast;
- participated in Regional Australia Intelligence on line meeting chaired by The Hon Nola Marino, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories;
- participated as a member in the Redlands Regional Jobs Committee meeting;
- participated in meeting relating to internal southern Queensland skilled migration;
- discussed the eInvoicing initiative roll out with the Australian Tax Office;
- participated in the Queensland Futures Institute (QFI) Policy Leaders Breakfast – “Better Cities Better Regions”;
- participated at the CEDA Infrastructure Conference;
- participated as a member in the South East Queensland (SEQ) City Deal Industry Reference Group meeting;
- participated in the SEQ RDA Alliance meeting and workshop; and
- participated in the RDA Town Hall with the Hon Fiona Nash, Regional Education Commissioner.

In the period April to June 2022, the RDA:

- participated at the Logan Manufacturers’ Networking Event;
- held discussions with the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning;
- met Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce;
- sponsored and participated at National Forum: Enabling Better Aged and Community Care For Forgotten Australians;
- participated in Infrastructure Australia review;
- participated at Redlands Champions Boardroom forum;
- met with relevant LGAs on regional migration and workforce development projects;
- met with Logan City Council officials;

- participated in Logan Chambers of Commerce Presidents / Logan City Council bimonthly meetings;
- met with officers from the Logan Office of Economic Development;
- participated in Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Trade and Investment Strategy (2032 Strategy) consultation;
- attended Suburban Futures' Designing better suburbs: the ingredients for success;
- participated in Building Data Capability webinar #2: a deeper-dive;
- participated in Digital Supply Chains - Traditional to Digital;
- met with Brisbane South East Employment Facilitator and Boosting the Local Care Workforce regarding Care and Support Sector Workforce Strategy;
- participated in the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce "The New Different" breakfast;
- met with incoming RDA Brisbane Executive Director;
- Board visited North Stradbroke and Southern Moreton Bay islands to meet industry and community representatives;
- attended the Logan Chambers of Commerce Joint Breakfast;
- participated at the Redland City Mayor's Launch of the Draft Birkdale Community Precinct Master Plan;
- participated at the Australian Logistics Council's *The Race to 2040; Shaping Tomorrow's Supply Chain* Conference;
- held preliminary meeting with officers from Logan City Council and Redland City Council and representatives from the Queensland Departments of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning; and Employment, Small Business and Training on proposed Investment Summit;
- participated at Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce Boardroom research lunch;
- held follow up meeting with relevant LGAs on regional migration and workforce development projects;
- held discussion with the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia in relation to proposed Investment Summit;
- participated in Cultural awareness workshop to Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees;
- participated at Combined Logan Chambers Event; and
- participated in Judges Briefing - Redlands Business Excellence Awards 2022.

In addition, communications are maintained with:

- The Queensland Department of Education;
- The Queensland Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water;
- The Queensland Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport;
- The Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts;
- AusIndustry;
- The Commonwealth Department of Education;
- The Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations;
- Infrastructure Australia; and
- The Australian Taxation Office.

South East Queensland and adjacent areas are served by several Regional Development Australia Committees including for:

- Brisbane;
- Darling Downs and South West Queensland;
- Gold Coast;
- Ipswich and West Moreton;
- Logan and Redlands;
- Moreton Bay;
- Northern Rivers;
- Sunshine Coast; and
- Wide Bay Burnett.

These RDAs communicate regularly to discuss issues across the South East Queensland Region.

Sponsorship of the following was agreed during the period:

- Logan Business Excellence Awards;
- Redlands Coast Business Excellence Award;
- Business Expos – Redlands Coast;
- Recruitment session hosted by HELP Employment and Training in collaboration with the Princess Alexandra Hospital; and
- Community Resourcing: Enabling Better Aged and Community Care for Forgotten Australians National Forum.

The RDA's sponsorship of the Redlands Coast Small Business Expo included sponsoring an expo stand allocated to local business InvincABLE. InvincABLE Pty Ltd, and its sister organisation InvincABLE A.I.D.E (Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity and Education), are dedicated to improving the lives of the disabled community.

An analysis of return on investment of the above sponsorship opportunities has commenced in 2021 to 2022 and will provide guidelines for future sponsorships.

Membership was renewed with Suburban Futures (a think tank to promote a better understanding of the important role of the suburban economy in the life of our cities, through shared insights, information and analysis). Membership was also renewed with the following Chambers of Commerce:

- Straddie Chamber of Commerce;
- Logan Regional Chamber of Commerce;
- Beenleigh Yatala Chamber of Commerce;
- Logan Chamber of Commerce;
- Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce; and
- Southern Moreton Bay Islands Chamber of Commerce.

In addition the RDA contributed to the following on-line submissions:

- Forward scan survey;
- National skills commission; and
- Infrastructure Australia feedback.

The RDA also provided letters to support:

- Australian Internships Pty Ltd's suitability as a third party internship provider for the 407 Training and Research Visa for another period of 12 months; and
- The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training's design, development and delivery of the Certificate IV in Cultural Capability Training (Certificate IV) between the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts.

Market engagement for Building Better Regions Fund (Round 6) began some 4 months prior to the expected call for applications. Workshops for small groups and individual organisations such as Chambers were developed, tested and rolled out based on the Building Better Regions Fund (Round 5) Guidelines which were expected to be similar for Round 6 with perhaps an area of specific focus (e.g., Round 4 related to bushfire impacts and Round 5 related to COVID-19 impacts on Tourism).

Applications opened from 13 December 2021 and closed on 10 February 2022. Throughout this period the RDA actively supported potential applicants and maintained a weekly reminder through its e-Bulletin of the Fund.

During the period of calling for applications the RDA provided letters of support for Redland City Council for Stage 1 of the Redlands Coast Regional Sport and Recreation Precinct and STAR Community Services Ltd for construction of an office/centre for managing and providing client services across South East Queensland.

At the time of raising this Report the results of Round 6 are yet to be announced.

In response to changes brought about by the COVID-19 environment, a dedicated COVID-19 page was introduced to the RDA website. It has been maintained throughout this period to include the latest information on COVID-19 developments, particularly as they relate to funding opportunities. Updates to website content have also included direct links to distributed e-Bulletins and Reports to the Region.

The RDA continues to utilise Vision6 for its direct email communications. Throughout the year the RDA sends email communications directly to subscribers of its database. The content of these communications is varied, but mainly concentrates on regional events, grant rounds and other items of interest to the Region. The use of Facebook has continued to increase over the 2021 to 2022 period. A LinkedIn account has been established for the RDA.

The Regional Development Australia Charter includes RDAs having an active and facilitative role in their communities with a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize economic opportunities and attract investment. Collaborating with other RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDAs will:

- a) Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs.
- b) Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research.
- c) Improve Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.
- d) Co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, or work with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities.

The work and objectives of the RDA directly reflects this Charter.