

# PROTECTING THE DIVERSITY AND RICHNESS OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGION BEYOND ITS ECONOMIC VALUE

Increasing the effectiveness of community engagement to deliver outcomes and positive changes for shared benefit to the community, business and government.

# **Introduction to session attendees:**

### **Thought Leaders**

**Professor Tim Smith** is the inaugural Director of the Sustainability Research Centre (SRC) at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC), which is one of three flagship research concentrations of the university, comprised of over 60 researchers. Prior to his appointment with USC, Prof Smith was a senior research scientist with the CSIRO. Prof Smith has also led the social science research and education portfolios of two national research centres, the Coastal Cooperative Research Centre and the Catchment Hydrology Cooperative Research Centre.

Apart from academic appointments, Prof Smith has worked in local government, state government, and in private industry. Along with his research partners, he was awarded the 2009 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change. Prof Smith is a Director of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation Board, a member of the Executive Scientific Advisory Committee for Healthy Waterways, on the Editorial Board of Geographical Research, and Convenes the Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions (SEI) Research Network for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF). He has held adjunct or honorary positions at Griffith University, the University of Queensland, and the New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute at the Victoria University of Wellington. He is currently an adjunct Professor with Brock University, Canada.

**Amanda Newberry,** is the Founder & Managing Director, Articulous Communications an award-winning communications and engagement professional who has made a career out of tackling difficult projects across the country. A passionate and experienced communicator, she has worked with some of the country's largest organisations along with state and federal government organisations. She is a sought-after issues and crisis advisor, especially for major corporations.

A former journalist, Amanda is a communications strategist with skills in community and stakeholder engagement, media relations, corporate communication and training. She has also been a weekly panelist on ABC Radio's Hidden Persuaders program for eight years. As a trainer, Amanda has worked with organisations across Australia and New Zealand. She has an energetic and engaging style.

**Kate Kirby** is a Project Manager in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and President (OVCP). She manages specific executive projects that support the implementation of USC's strategic and operational plans. Kate has worked in Australian Higher Education for 13 years across 3 Queensland universities. Prior to joining the OVCP, Kate held roles as Manager of Information Management Services, Senior Policy Advisor, National Project Coordinator for CAIRSS, and Research Information Systems Coordinator, and has sat a term on the Australian Library Information Association (ALIA) Board of Directors.

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Key deliverables during Kate's time at USC have included: development of the University's Information Management Framework, rollout of the organisational Information Management Strategy, submission of Excellence in Research Australia (ERA – the measure of research quality) national data, and implementation of core business systems (Research Master, Research Repository, and Policy Repository).

Kate's work has been recognised nationally in the past year. Together with her team she won the Records and Information Management Professional Association's (RIMPA) *QLD Award for Innovation & Marketing*, the *QLD Award for Partnership & Teamwork*, and was shortlisted for the (RIMPA) *National Award for Business Benefit*. Kate holds a Masters of Information Technology, a Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Australian History and Art History).

## **Interest Groups**

Narelle McCarthy is Liaison & Advocacy – Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC). She primarily undertakes the liaison & advocacy roles with the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, the peak environmental advocacy group for the region since 1980.

As such, she actively engages with over 60 community groups working on environmental protection and policy, conservation, natural resource management, resident interests and sustainability. SCEC's membership collectively represents over 10,000 people across the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland.

SCEC works across four broad strategic areas: Sustainable Communities, the Green Economy, Good Government and Preserving Nature.

With experience working within Federal parliament and not-for-profit organisations, Narelle has been actively studying and working across the environment and conservation sectors for 13 years.

**John Hare** is a key member of Development Watch. He has extensive governance experience in the private and public sectors. Prior to retirement in 2009 he was head of governance with the ACT Department of Education and Training. John has a double honours degree in Politics and Modern History (Sheffield University, UK) and holds a Graduate Diploma in Business (Monash University, Melbourne) in Tourism Management. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Governance and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries.

# **Local Government**

**Sandy Bolton** is a Councillor in the Noosa Shire, and Chair of Infrastructure and Services. Her areas of interest include the local economy and job creation, and has been working on opportunities in agribusiness and the health and wellness industries.

Sandy has a diverse background in business development, corporate governance and management in a range of industries including sports, human resources, education, and agriculture. Her combined experiences in both the private and not-for-profit sectors has highlighted the importance of collaborative partnerships and efficient resource management to deliver successful outcomes that include healthy, caring communities with access to vibrant educational, cultural and lifestyle opportunities.

**Warren Bunker is** the Director of Regional Strategy and Planning at the Sunshine Coast Council – one of the largest local governments in Australia. In this role he is responsible for setting the future direction and developing integrated policy for the Sunshine Coast.

He is responsible for the following functions: development assessment; infrastructure and transport policy; environment and sustainability policy; strategic planning and major urban developments.

Warren has over 25 years' experience working in Local Government in the area of strategic planning, environmental policy, coastal planning and infrastructure policy.

## **Industry**

**Simon Ambrose** has a background in both, Agricultural and Arts Business and has been the CEO of Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd since September 2013. Past roles have included CEO of the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association, Director of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Director of the McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park and General Manager of the Interact Asia-Pacific Multimedia Festival in Victoria. He has also worked in film and arts related organisations in Western Australia.

He represents the tourism industry on a national level as the Deputy Chair of the Australian Regional Tourism Network. Simon represents the tourism industry on the board of Sunshine Coast Business Council.

**Peter Chenoweth's** career began in Melbourne at IBM in sales, leading him to develop strong skills in sales and IT. As a successful small business entrepreneur, he started-up and ran an Events business based in Melbourne, specializing in Conferences and Association Management; and developed property. He completed an MBA at The University of Melbourne's Melbourne Business School, and was seconded to New York University's Stern School of Business. He was an infantry officer in the Australian Army reserve for over six years. These experiences and others have led him to also develop strong skills in planning, marketing, & leadership.

Peter moved to Noosa in early 2010, and has served on the management committees of Slow Food Noosa, the Noosa Long Weekend, Cooroy Fusion, and Business Mentoring Noosa (BMN). He continues to serve as a Mentor for over 3 years. Peter is semi-retired, and invests in SME businesses, preferably taking an active role. He is President of CCIQ Noosa (Chamber of Commerce), and has returned to the BMN management committee.

**Bill Darby** is the Deputy President of the Caloundra Chamber of Commerce Inc. and Director of Rumba Beach Resort at Caloundra.

**Kris McCue** is the Deputy President of Maroochydore Chamber of Commerce Inc. and Managing Director of Stones Throw Consulting.

**Will Wilson** is the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay Burnett Regional Manager of Master Builders Queensland, the go-to peak industry association representing the interests of the building and construction industry. In his role he is responsible for looking after the interests of his local members, engaging with government, community groups and key industry stakeholders to deliver positive outcomes for building and construction in Queensland.

Passionate about the industry, Will has a strong background in development and construction contracting, holds a builder's licence, has a Bachelor in Fine Arts and has previously toured as a carpenter for an international stage show. Will has an energetic and enthusiastic approach to his work, which has been evident throughout his 15 years within in the industry.

#### **Linda Delamotte**

Linda Delamotte has many years' experience in the healthcare industry, as well as project and business management roles in the public sector. After graduating from University of the Sunshine Coast in 2009 with a Master of Business Administration Linda started her own business Your Home Care, which has taken her back to the health care industry. She has been on the Executive Committee and then President of Kawana Chamber of Commerce for the last 4 years, and is involved in other community roles that feed her passion for all things business and growing the economy of the Sunshine Coast.

**Helen Perry** is a marketing and branding specialist who has been delivering effective and cost-efficient strategies for business since the late 1990's. She is a director of Fresh PR & Marketing.

Helen holds the IAP2 Certificate in Engagement and in the last 5 years has worked on a number of engagement projects including for Sunshine Coast Council.

**Phil Smith** is a mid-career architect and urban designer with 24 years' experience in private practice and local government on the Sunshine Coast. He has worked alongside some of Australia's best known architects including AIA gold medal winners Lindsay and Kerry Clare and Gabriel Poole. Phil established his own practice in 1994 (Gomango Architects with Liza Neil) to explore new models of sustainable regional architecture and in 1998 simultaneously worked as Principal Urban Designer at Maroochy Shire Council.

In 2006 Phil joined Deicke Richards, establishing their Sunshine Coast office as Associate Director of Urban design. Most recently, he has been Project Leader an 'Integrated Residential Community Model' Project for Churches of Christ, Yeerongpilly TOD Master Plan for State Govt and Bokarina Beach Master Plan Team for Stocklands. Phil was part of the team on the successful Bowen Hills TOD Master Plan (2008) for the UDLA and the Moreton Bay Rail Link LAP team (2011).

The USC Seniors Infill Housing Research Project he co-authored won a 2012 QLD PIA Award for Cutting Edge Research & Teaching. Phil continues to advocate for design leadership and sustainability as chair of the Australian Institute of Architects (SC). He currently sits on the SCC Urban Design Advisory Panel and is President of the Creative Alliance, a NFP peak body for arts, innovation and creativity on the Coast. Phil has just accepted a position on the Caloundra CBD taskforce.

**Dustin Welch** is the divisional director Sunshine Coast for Savills Australia. He is also the Property Council of Australia Qld Division's representative on the Sunshine Coast Business Council. Dustin has over 15 years working primarily in commercial property in both the Queensland and NSW markets. He is a Sunshine Coast local.

# **Property Development**

**Evan Aldridge, Senior Development Manager; Sekisui House** a senior property executive and business leader with extensive experience in delivering major residential, retail and commercial developments throughout Australia. Evan has managed every facet of complex mixed use projects to boutique and community developments. Evan thrives on finding innovative solutions to solve challenges, building relationships and achieving outcomes that deliver quality property assets.

Evan has previously served in senior roles with Stockland and Macquarie Bank and managed the delivery of a dozen mixed use developments, including Brisbane's iconic Riparian Plaza, designed by acclaimed architect Harry Seidler, which redefined Brisbane's premium riverfront property.

**Dirk Long, Director, Evans Long** has 20 years' experience in the Queensland commercial property market. Having started as a commercial real estate agent in Brisbane he went on to own 2 commercial

real estate franchises in the Brisbane CBD and Southside markets employing over 45 sales and property management staff.

In 2011 he partnered with Matthew Evans to form Evans Long. Evans Long is a commercial and residential development company with a focus on commercial, retail and residential development throughout Queensland.

**Ben Simpson** is Regional Manager Sunshine Coast, Stockland and is a board member of Sunshine Coast Business Council. Ben graduated from the University of Western Sydney in 1995 in property economics and has over 18 years' experience in the property development industry. He currently manages five (5) community development projects, comprising a third of Stockland's future residential development portfolio and two city building projects, Caloundra South and Oceanside. Ben is a keen advocate for balancing development and the environment.

**Pete Sparkes** is a Director of ADAMS + SPARKES Town Planning and Development and has been practicing as a town planning consultant in the private sector for the past 12 years both on the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Pete is particularly familiar with the Queensland's planning system and the development assessment process. Having worked on a range of small to very large, complex projects, Pete has provided extensive planning advice to public and private sector clients who have an interest in commercial, residential, mixed-use, industrial or infrastructure developments throughout Queensland and parts of New South Wales. Pete is a passionate business owner and Sunshine Coast local.

#### **Sunshine Coast Business Council**

**Sandy Zubrinich** has held the role of chair Sunshine Coast Business Council since 2011. Her personal ambition in this role is to contribute to the strengthening of the regional economy with particular attention to improving youth unemployment rates.

Sandy has held senior executive roles in State Government, Banking and Financial Services, Telecommunications, ICT and consulting. She worked internationally with Ernst & Young LLP managing the global strategy management service line which was based around software Sandy co-developed. During this time she gained experience working with many of the top 50 global companies in the United States and Europe.

**Hayden Rudd** is a qualified Chartered Accountant with broad professional experience across a range of industries. Having completed a Bachelor of Business at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Hayden started out his career with KPMG in Brisbane. Hayden has travelled extensively in Asia, Canada, USA and Europe which included a 12- month stint working for Heathrow Airport in London. On return to Australia, Hayden spent two years as a Finance Manager for Watpac Ltd. before returning to the Sunshine Coast.

Hayden is now involved in running the NCP group, a large local business that was established by his family in 1953 and continues to support the area today. Hayden was born and raised on the Sunshine Coast and has a genuine passion for the region. His view for the area is to see it prosper for the future of his children and family.