SUNSHINE COAST
Business Council
one vision, one voice

# The Economy, Catalytic Investment, What to Expect!

**CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday 7 October 2026**
**12.15pm to 5.00pm**
**UniSC Auditorium, Innovation Centre**

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**2013 was the start of a new era in the economic development of the Sunshine Coast. Guided by the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), formulated by Sunshine Coast Council in partnership with the business community, REDS identified a growth path to transform the economy through the development of key health, transport and region building infrastructure.**

More than a decade later, this conference examines the impact the REDS 'game changer' projects had on economic growth and regional prosperity and how the projected $20B private and public investment to be injected into the regional economy over the next 15 years, will shape the region leading up to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, and beyond.

Renowned national economist Mr Stephen Walters will provide his perspective on the performance of the National economy and the key forces shaping future growth. He will be followed by respected economist Michael Campbell, who will draw on recent research commissioned by SCBC/RDA Moreton Bay & Sunshine Coast, to deliver an evidence-based view of the economic performance of the Sunshine Coast and the contribution made by the 'game changer' projects.

The keynote address will be delivered by Graham Quirk, former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, former board member of Infrastructure Australia, and chair of the independent 2024 review into venues for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Drawing on extensive leadership and infrastructure experience, Mr Quirk will explore how major catalytic investments can be harnessed to create lasting economic, social and community benefits, and how the Sunshine Coast can maximise this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Mr Quirk will then be joined by Sunshine Coast Mayor Rosanna Natoli, Peter Saba from Walker Corporation and David Laner from Stockland for an engaging panel discussion examining the opportunities, challenges and priorities that will shape the region's next phase of growth.

If you are interested in the future of the Sunshine Coast, this is a conversation you cannot afford to miss. We look forward to welcoming you and hearing your contribution to this important discussion.

BOOK NOW

## PROGRAM

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| 12 Noon | **Arrival and registration** |
| 12.15 - 12.45pm | **Light lunch and seating** |
| 12.45 – 12.55pm | **Welcome and scene setting** |
| 1.00 - 1.25 pm | **Geopolitics, Economics, Investment . . . LEADERSHIP.**<br>Mr Stephen Walters, Principal & Chief Economist, Optimal Economics |
| 1.30 – 1.55 pm | **Factors that shaped Sunshine Coast regional performance over the past 15 years.**<br>Mr Michael Campbell, Director, Lucid Economics |
| 2.00 – 2.15 pm | **Panel Discussion – Risks to the next 15 years of investment.**<br>**Panel –** Mr Stephen Walters and Mr Michael Campbell<br>**Panel Facilitator -** Ms Jess Caire, Queensland Executive Director, Property Council of Australia |
| 2.15 – 2.30 pm | **Break** |
| 2.40 – 3.10 pm | **Over $20B will be injected into the regional economy – how will this private and public sector investment shape the next decade or more.**<br>Mr Graham Quirk, former Lord Mayor of Brisbane |
| 3.15 – 3.45 pm | **Panel Discussion – How do we maximise the opportunities from this period of significant investment and ensure the vision of liveability, connectivity and sustainability is achieved.**<br><br>**Panel –** Mr Graham Quirk, Mayor Rosanna Natoli, Mr Peter Saba, and Mr David Laner<br>**Panel Facilitator -** Ms Jess Caire, Queensland Executive Director, Property Council of Australia |
| 3.45 pm | Closing comments – Mr Paul Fisher, CEO RDA Moreton Bay; Sunshine Coast |
| 4.00 – 5.00 pm | **Refreshments** |

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### VENUE
UniSC Auditorium, USC Innovation Centre,
University of the Sunshine Coast
90 Sippy Downs Sippy Downs, Queensland

### PARKING
Paid parking is available in the adjacent P1 carpark in the Innovation Centre precinct.

### PRICING
Before 19 September 2026
**Members & Non-Members:**
$150 per person (incl. GST)
$1,200 Corporate Table of 8 (incl. GST)

After 19 September 2026
**Member:**
$165 per person (incl. GST)
**Non-Member:**
$176 per person (incl. GST)
**Members & Non-Members:**
**Corporate Table - Group of 8:**
$1,300 per table (incl. GST)

### INCLUSIONS
The ticket price includes light lunch on arrival, afternoon tea, presentations by keynote speakers as well as panel discussions, and refreshments on conclusion.

### NAME TAGS & DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
For all corporate table bookings information is required for each attendee including first and last name, company name and dietary requirements. Please email info@scbusinesscouncil.com.au with full details by 5pm Thursday 1 October to guarantee dietary requirements on the day.

### BOOKINGS CLOSE
5:00pm Thursday 1 October 2026 or when fully booked

### NEED HELP?
Please contact Event Manager,
Kerrie Bryant-Adams on
info@scbusinesscouncil.com.au

### ABN
99 680 681 766

### TICKETS
Purchase through Trybooking:
www.trybooking.com/DEPHTW

BOOK HERE

MAP

## Mr Stephen Walters
## Principal & Chief Economist - Optimal Economics

Stephen Walters is Chief Economist of Optimal Economics Pty Ltd, based in Sydney.

He previously was chief economist for the Business Council of Australia (BCA) and chief economist for NSW in Treasury. Before joining NSW Treasury, Stephen was Chief Economist with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and, for 14 years, was Chief Economist Australia and New Zealand for investment bank J.P.Morgan.

Stephen previously was Senior Economist with Access Economics in Melbourne and International Economist with Norwich Union and Alliance Capital in the United Kingdom. He also spent seven years as an Economist with the WA Treasury in Perth. Stephen holds a Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Western Australia and a Master's degree in applied finance from the University of Melbourne. He also has qualifications in journalism and graduated from the AICD's Company Directors Course in 2017.

Stephen also is a senior research fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS), an associate director of the Australian Centre for International Trade and Investment (ACITI) and is consultant chief economist for Keys Thomas and Associates. He is a former chair of the Executive Committee of the Australian Business Economists (ABE).

Stephen has published three books, with a fourth to be published soon.

## Mr Michael Campbell
## Director - Lucid Economics

Michael Campbell is a founding director of Lucid Economics and has over 25 years of experience in economic and financial analysis, property analysis, economic development and tourism spanning three continents. He works with public and private sector clients to inform strategy development, investment decisions and government policy.

Michael is a recognised thought leader in economic development and regional competitiveness. He is a trusted advisor to governments, industry bodies and investors across Australia, with project experience spanning metropolitan growth areas, regional cities, tourism destinations, agricultural communities, resource regions and economies undergoing structural transition. He has advised governments on economic development, investment attraction, industry development and land-use planning, and has advised investors on industrial, tourism, mixed-use, retail and commercial projects across the country.

Michael has been heavily involved in economic development across South East Queensland for almost two decades and has been analysing the region and its local economies since 2007. This long-term involvement has provided a unique perspective on the factors shaping the Sunshine Coast and broader South East Queensland economy. He has worked extensively with local governments, the Queensland Government and private investors on initiatives spanning economic development, tourism, property development, infrastructure and major projects.

Michael holds bachelor degrees from the University of North Carolina, an International MBA jointly awarded through the Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina and Vienna University of Economics and Business. He has also completed executive education programs with INSEAD, the University of Cambridge and the Australian National University. Michael is an active member of Economic Development Australia (EDA) and the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in Washington DC. He is an instructor for EDA's National Training Program and serves on the International Advisory Committee of IEDC.

## Mr Graham Quirk
## Former Lord Mayor of Brisbane 2011-2019

Graham Quirk dedicated 34 years to public life including his tenure as Lord Mayor of Brisbane from 2011 to 2019.

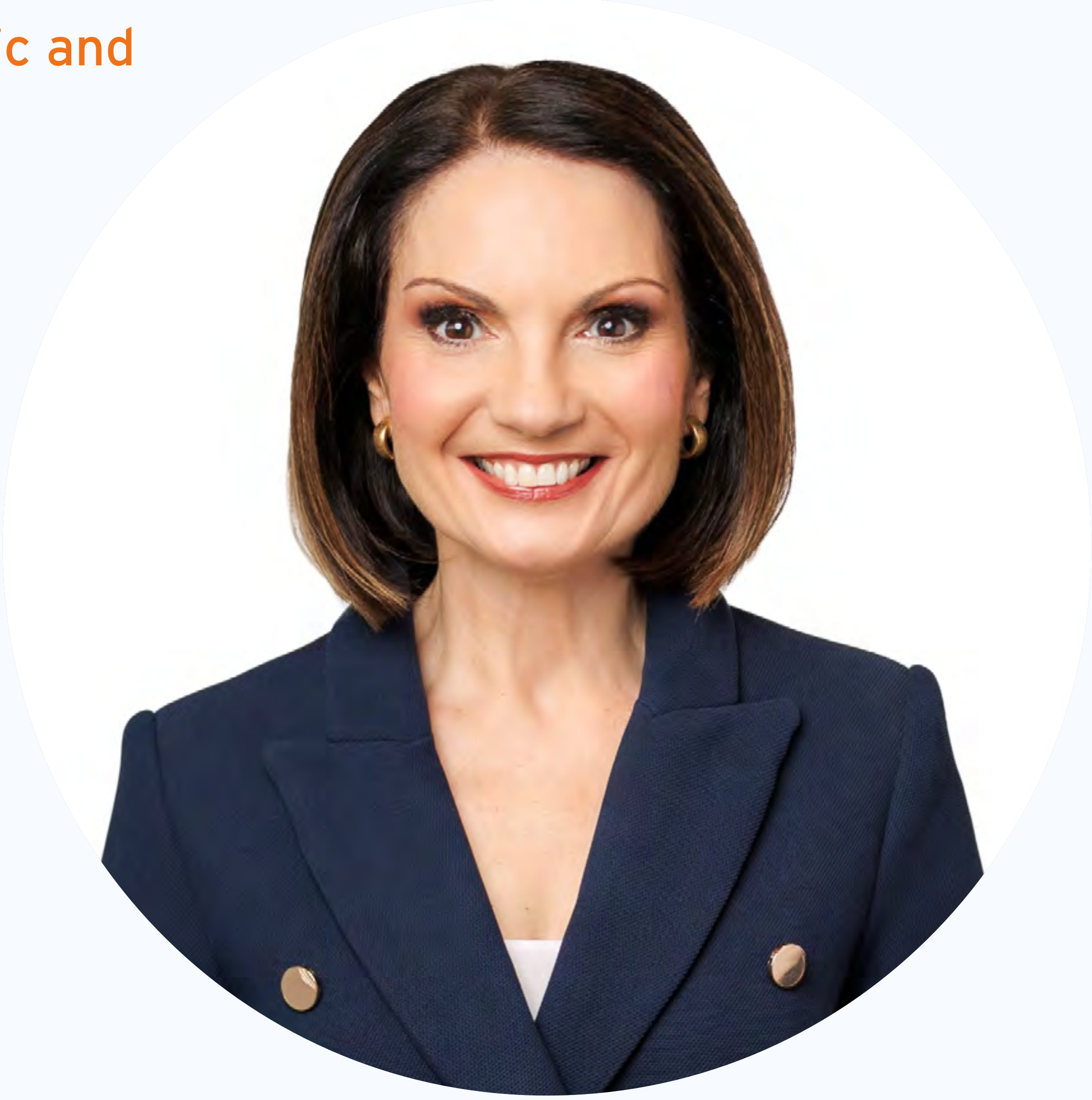
As Chair of the Council of Mayors (South East Queensland) Graham oversaw the development of the Prefeasibility and Full Feasibility studies for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In that role he also oversaw the development of a People Mass Movement study for South East Queensland setting out a range of Road and Public Transport projects to take SEQ to 2032 and through to 2041 to meet projected population growth.

On leaving public life Graham served on the Board of Infrastructure Australia from 2019 -2022.

Apart from consulting to Private Sector companies Graham is Deputy Chairman of Racing Queensland and is a Board Director of Racing Australia and Unity Water.

He is a Property Auctioneer and operates Peak Plains Thoroughbreds at Peak Crossing.
Graham is married to Anne and has three daughters and three granddaughters.

## Mayor Rosanna Natoli
## Mayor - Sunshine Coast Council, Board Member, Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee



Rosanna Natoli was elected Mayor of the Sunshine Coast Council in March 2024 and brings almost three decades of community connection, communication leadership, education and civic service to this role.

As the elected leader of the Sunshine Coast, Mayor Natoli represents one of Queensland's key co-host regions and one of Australia's fastest growing and most distinctive communities. Her focus now is to help create a better Sunshine Coast for the people who live here currently, and the generations to come.

As a Board member of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee, Mayor Natoli's priorities are to ensure the benefits of Brisbane 2032 are felt beyond the major venues and event period, and practical legacy outcomes are delivered for communities, young people, volunteers, local businesses, tourism, the environment and future generations.

Mayor Natoli's career has been shaped by people, place and public trust. She began as a journalist and presenter with Seven News, becoming a familiar face across Queensland and telling the stories of local communities, businesses, families, athletes, volunteers and organisations. She also worked for 25 years as an academic, researcher and lecturer in media and communications at the University of the Sunshine Coast, helping educate future professionals.

She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Queensland and a Graduate Diploma in Communication from QUT. Mayor Natoli is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She has won awards for her teaching and has also been published in journals of peer-reviewed research.

Mayor Natoli is the proud patron and ambassador of a number of local charities and community groups.

## Mr Peter Saba
## Group Executive, Development - Walker Corporation

Peter has been with the Walker Corporation since 1994 and brings a unique skillset, encompassing the design and delivery of city-shaping and place making strategies across all sectors. As Group Executive, Developments, he has led many of our urban transformations across Australia, driving the Walker 'vision to reality' ethos.

Peter has closely managed the execution of some of the group's largest and most successful developments including Broadway Shopping Centre, Regency Chatswood, Bluestone Mount Barker, Banksia Grove, Citiswich Business Park, Riverlea and the highly acclaimed $1 billion Hope Island Resort.

Currently overseeing the development of the new $3 billion Maroochydore City Centre and Lakesview Robina, Peter's experience is critical in managing the execution and delivery of large master planned projects.

Peter also plays a fundamental role within our national new business team and is responsible for helping secure new tenants, land sales and future acquisitions, as well as nurturing government, community and key stakeholder relationships.

## Mr David Laner
## General Manager - Stockland Development

David Laner is the General Manager of Stockland Masterplanned Communities in Queensland and Northern New South Wales, a position he has held since 2018.

David is responsible for numerous Residential developments and the associated retail, employment, education, health, and recreational projects. He has been working at Stockland since 2007 and has worked across residential, retirement, retail and industrial assets within Stockland, in both Queensland and New South Wales.

Prior to working with Stockland, David consulted to the development and construction industry, as well as state and local government through his own business and a national consultancy group.

The early part of his career was spent with the Lendlease Corporation, where he worked for more than 5 years on a range of office, industrial, infrastructure, health and residential projects. David graduated with an Honours degree in Civil Engineering from QUT in 1997 and has undertaken postgraduate studies at Melbourne Business School, and the Australian Institute of Company Directors to earn the GAICD post-nominals.
David is a member of:

- The Australian Institute of Company Directors
- The Institute of Engineers Australia
- The Real Estate Institute of Queensland.

David previously held a committee position on the Retirement Villages Association in Queensland and is a licensed Real Estate Agent in Queensland.

David has been an active member within UDIA Queensland, and due to his significant contributions was appointed to the following positions:
- Director (2013)
- Chair of the Infrastructure Committee (2018-2022)
- Vice President (2020-2022).

David is currently responsible for four of Australia's largest masterplanned communities; the Aura, Providence, Yarrabilba and Kings Forest projects which are delivering much-needed housing, employment, and infrastructure of critical importance to the region.

## Ms Jess Caire
## Queensland Executive Director, Property Council of Australia

Jess Caire is Executive Director of the Queensland Division of the Property Council of Australia and one of Queensland's most respected property industry leaders. Known for bringing together government, industry and the community, she has built a reputation for driving meaningful reform and delivering practical outcomes on the issues shaping Queensland's future.

Jess leads the Property Council's engagement with industry and advocacy to government on housing, infrastructure, planning and investment policy. Her work focuses on ensuring Queensland has the policy settings, infrastructure and investment needed to support growth, liveability and long-term prosperity.

A strategic and influential advocate, Jess combines deep expertise in public policy with strong commercial insight and an ability to build trusted relationships across government and industry. She is recognised for translating complex challenges into clear priorities, compelling advocacy and practical pathways to action.

Known for her energy, authenticity and collaborative leadership style, Jess has played a leading role in advancing the infrastructure, planning and investment priorities needed to accommodate growth, strengthen the economy and enhance Queensland's liveability.

Jess also serves on the Board of the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA), helping oversee the delivery and legacy of infrastructure associated with Brisbane 2032 Olympics.