

ENTERPRISE INNOVATIONS

BUSINESS PROFILE &

LEIGH BENNETT CV



Leigh Bennett

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Enterprise Innovations

Leigh Bennett is Principal of **Enterprise Innovations (EI)** which is a business consultancy providing a range of services with extensive experience in devising and managing regional, community and people development initiatives which blend government and industry. Leigh has a reputation for assembling specialist teams focused on the client's needs and for delivering often complex and high profile projects on time and within budget. Enterprise Innovation's services include:

- Strategic, Corporate and Small Business Planning
- Economic development and tourism ideas, concepts and plans
- Project Management
- Policy development and community engagement
- Business development and marketing ideas
- Feasibility studies and project concepts
- Property development feasibility assessments
- Economic benefits analysis
- Communication strategies
- Leadership development, coaching and personal development programs.

Enterprise Innovations' client list includes major government agencies, councils, corporations, universities, small and large businesses and not for profit organisations extending across Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and NSW.

Enterprise Innovations is also part of a larger alliance called **Regional Innovations Australia**. Leigh Bennett is a founding director of this new umbrella company. The RIA alliance operates as a formally linked "business colony" of like-minded consultants and experts creating the ability to provide improved and more comprehensive and integrated targeted services to clients. We have Associates in the United States, Brisbane, Hobart and regional Queensland.

Leigh is a former Local Government CEO and Director of Economic Development in Hervey Bay, one of Australia's fastest growing regional cities. During that time he led the redevelopment of the Hervey Bay Airport which won **Australian Airport of the Year in 2005**.

Leigh works comfortably with people at all levels including senior executives, operational managers, staff, politicians and the community. He currently works inside and outside businesses across planning, strategy, financial planning and project management. Other roles include:

- Director, Board of Sundermann Water Power Limited (Sale, Vic) 2010 - current
- Director, various companies (Qld) 2010 - current
- Vice President, Urban Development Institute Australia, Qld Fraser Coast branch 2010 - current
- Fraser Coast Education Alliance Committee (2011)
- Hervey Bay Chamber of Commerce Executive 2011
- Chair of Industry Reference Group, Partnership Brokers program 2010 – current
- Business and industry engagement consultant for University of Southern Queensland (2006-2010)

Leigh has been an invited speaker at numerous high profile forums and conferences on community / economic development, this included:

- Creating Special Places through Regional Leadership Symposium, 2011
- Regional Economies National Conference, Noosa, 2003 and Mandurah 2005, "Managing Growth"
- World Heritage and Buddha Festival Conference, Leshan, Peoples Republic of China, 2002, "Ecotourism"
- SEGRA, Townsville, 2001, "Accessible Tourism"

Showcase Projects

Under the RIA umbrella completed a concept & research paper and urban design overlay for **Education City** a unique Australian concept for a combined Primary, High School, TAFE and University Campus with integrated professional development, facilities planning also including the local government - client. (confidential 2011)



With RIA Leigh is completing a Pre-Feasibility and Business Case for an **Airside Commercial Precinct** which includes industry, market and trend analysis, preliminary design, preliminary costings and marketing ideas (confidential 2011)



Prepared **Feasibility Assessment and Business Plan** for Hervey Bay Hockey Association Inc.'s aspiration for a synthetic turf surface, upgraded amenities and new clubhouse. (2011)



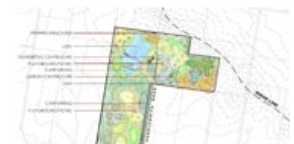
On-going advice on property and feasibility analyses for various development projects. Currently he is consulting on a **\$17M Mixed Retail Commercial precinct** being built over 3-4 year construction phase. (2009-2013)



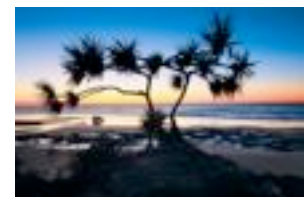
Urangan State High School Cultural and Sporting Complex (2008) - Led a specialist team with Denis Waring from PWA to undertake a full community needs analysis and consultation and wrote a Feasibility report complete with architect's designs and full financials for a community / school city cultural and sporting space. This was a \$14M proposed development. Amended Feasibility (2009).



Prepared the original Concept Plan and formed a multi-disciplinary project team to write a major planning and design and report for an **International Arboretum project** on a 400 ha site. (2009). This involved embassy liaison, a multi-disciplinary team and an array of engineering and landscape designs, water efficiencies alongside social and economic feasibility and benefits analysis.



Facilitated industry member's consultation workshop, analysis of information and wrote report for **Fraser Coast Couth Burnett Tourism Board** to inform its 2010 revision of its 3 year Marketing Business Plan. The region receives some 1.2M visitors annually.



Leigh led the pre-feasibility, business liaison and strategy for Wide Bay Water Corporation on the **\$12M Water Education Park Project, "Wetside"** (2006-2008). Current awards include:

- Qld Master Builders – Best Project 2010
- Qld Master Builders - Best Project under \$20M
- Engineering Australia Award for best project under \$20M
- Engineering Australia Sustainability Award
- Public Works Engineering Association Excellence Award in 2010.



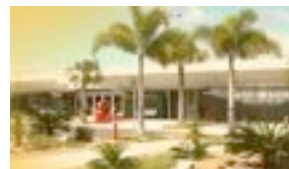
Paperbark 5 star Resort Master Plan – Leigh led a specialist team to draft a Master Plan and Feasibility Assessment complete with architectural designs, market research and financial analysis for a 5 star fishing based resort (2006).



Teamed with Regional Breakthroughs to write and present the business case for a private business and Hervey Bay Council consortium for direct **Melbourne to Hervey Bay jet air services**. (2007). Revised the Plan (2008).



As CEO and Project Leader, Leigh Bennett led the redevelopment of the Hervey Bay Airport to extend the runway to jet capacity and replace and treble in size the existing terminal (2005). This included all negotiations to get airlines to fly into the destination for the first time. The project won **Australian Major Airport of the year in 2006**. It opened in July 2005 with flights to Sydney with Jetstar and Virgin Blue.



Researched and wrote an **Economic Benefits Report** for the development company John Potter Group for the \$2 billion (retail) Golden Waters community, golf and tourist precincts development in Hervey Bay (2007).



Project Managing a 2 year **Climate Change adaption modelling and farm audit project** involving the University of Southern Qld for the Coal River Products Association farming group in southern Tasmania. (2010-2012). Currently developing a comprehensive website and promotional action plan for CRPA.



Undertook extensive stakeholder and business consultation, literature review and drafted the **Fraser Coast Regional Council's Economic Development Strategy** (4 month project). Fraser Coast is in the top 3 fastest growing regions in Australia and home to some 100,000 people (2009).



Teamed with Regional Breakthroughs to lead, articulate and guide the **Wide Bay Aviation Investment & Re-Investment Plan** for Qld Dept of State Development. The WBB region is about the size of Tasmania and has some 300,000 people and Queensland's only 3 aircraft manufacturers (2006).



Leigh was Industry and **Business Adviser for University of Southern Queensland Fraser Coast Campus** 2006-2010. He devised the concept, wrote the business plan and helped gain the funding to implement the USQ's **Centre for Economic Development and Enterprise** (now called Economic Development & Enterprise Program) concept, a coalition of chambers of commerce, corporations, local government and industry peak bodies (2006-2011).



Researched, compiled and wrote a large tender submission for **GP Links Wide Bay for the Medicare Local** federal government reforms. (2011) Consulted with staff, conducted workshops and wrote GP Links' **Organisational Development Strategy** (2011)



Other Business / Strategic Plan Consulting Experience

Leigh Bennett is an expert facilitator and is often engaged to undertake difficult assignments. He has worked on projects with broad consultation with public and stakeholders at their core, as diverse as:

- Fraser Coast Regional Council Economic Development Strategy (client Fraser Coast Regional Council) developed over a 4 month period.
- Wide Bay Aviation Industry Investment and Attraction Plan (client Queensland Government).
- Urangan Cultural and Sporting Complex Feasibility and Needs Analysis Report (client Urangan State High School).
- Fraser Coast Anglican College Strategic Plan, developed over 8 months.

In the last 24 months alone, Leigh Bennett has worked with some 20 small business, educational or NFP sector entities to deliver **Strategic and / or Business Plans** all tailored to the client's budget and timeframes. Engagement, consultation and face-to-face interaction are an inherent part of the process adopted so that the client has ownership and understanding of the outputs, this has included:

- **Business Plan** for Hervey Bay Boat Club Group's planned RTO. (2011)
- **Action Plan** for a flood affected retail business. (DEEDI funded 2011)
- Queensland and northern NSW (employments services, disability, aged, drug and alcohol, etc.) organisational review – **Community Solutions Group**. (2010)
- Strategic Plan and review for **South Burnett CTC** an employment placement, youth, disability and housing services organisation. (2010)
- **YMCA Bundaberg** (youth, gym, disability, childcare services – 2010), Business Review for gymnasium and childcare services.
- **Fraser Coast Anglican College** – 8 month project for a large K-12 private college, Strategic Plan. (2010)
- **Bell Dixon and Butler** – leading regional solicitors firm, assessment and Business Plan. (2010)
- **Sundermann Power Company** – Business Plan and Investment Prospectus for a start up R&D company on innovative water turbine solutions.
- **Happy Wanderer Village** – caravan and camping park capital expansion assessment and Business Plan. (2009)
- **Bellero VDM Constructions** – part of publically listed VDM Group, assessment and Business Plan. (2009)
- **Barlow Gregg VDM Consulting** – civil engineering consultancy, Branding / Marketing Plan (2010)
- **Brock and Associates** – civil engineering consultancy, assessment and Business Plan. (2010)
- **Rhind Constructions** – commercial building company, assessment and Business Plan. (2009)
- **Knight Frank Commercial Real Estate** – regional office, assessment and Business Plan. (2010)
- **Seabird Aviation** – aircraft manufacturer, R&D firm, assessment and commercial strategy. (2009)
- Undertook a business review for **Lifeline Queensland's Fraser District** to ascertain strategic alignment of services, staffing and commercial property holdings. (2007)
- Facilitation of **strategic planning workshops and reviews** for Wide Bay Water Corporation. (2006-2010)

Training & Development Consulting Experience

- Public Courses** - 2 day master class workshops for The Change Forum across Queensland and 1 Day courses on the same topics.
- Leading with Emotional Intelligence
 - Dealing with Difficult Discussions
- Australian Workplace Culture & Leadership**
- Worked with Qld Health to provide an extensive program of 1 day courses for the Wide Bay Region highlighting the unique traits of Australians and how to shape the culture in our work environment. (2009)
 - CTC South Burnett (2010)
 - St Marys College Maryborough (Qld)
- Team Development and team building**
- St Marys College, Qld (2010)
 - Lifeline Qld – Fraser Coast. (2010)
 - South Australian Energy Ombudsman Office (2008)
 - Wide Bay Water Corporation - various work teams. (2008 - 2010)
 - Victorian Department of Human Services SE Metropolitan management team. (2009)
 - GP Links Wide Bay
- Strategic Planning and Reviews**
- Facilitation of strategic planning workshops and reviews for various government, corporate and NFP organisations.
- In House Consultancies**
- A 6 month state-wide leadership program for Qld Health Info Services Division; (2008)
- Coaching Program**
- Tailored team or individual coaching programs for small business and managers.
 - Conducted a 6 month business coaching program for APN News and Media sales teams across central and northern Queensland. (2007)
- Leadership Forum**
- Designed and delivered the Breakfast at Peppers Leadership Series – a suite of networking and leadership workshops (2007)