

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Australia could be a smart community leader

The smart communities approach provides the greatest benefit for Australia's residents, according to Digital Futures expert David Bartlett who delivered the closing keynote speech at the Australian Smart Communities Summit in Caloundra on Friday.

Mr Bartlett told delegates that Australia could be a 'real leader' in this area by building on the "extraordinary strength of this conference" and sharing with rest of the nation the importance of the work already done on smart communities to attract investment in this area.

"Everything we do, when we articulate why the smart city movement is so important, needs to be centred on the citizens - on what's in it for the people and what does the end game produce in terms of better life outcomes for those people who live in the places that will change."

Mr Bartlett, a former Premier of Tasmania, was one of 27 international and national speakers at the inaugural two-day Summit which focused on smart solutions such as drone technology, smart assistive technology and smart data in the development of smart communities.

About 160 delegates, sponsors and exhibitors attended the two-day Summit which showcased current technologies, case studies and presentations from thought leaders representing leading technology, telecommunications and infrastructure providers, as well as local government, universities and key research organisations.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine Coast also sponsored six high school students selected from Kawana Waters State College, Mountain Creek State High School, Caloundra State High School and Unity College.

"With so many speakers and exhibitors showcasing these smart city technologies on our doorstep, it was a great opportunity to introduce some of our local youth to see how our future cities are being developed," RDA Sunshine Coast Chair Tony Riddle said.

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Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA)

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Images

01 – Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson with Deputy Premier the Hon Jackie Trad and ASCA President Michael Whereat.

02 – Deputy Premier the Hon Jackie Trade and Mayor Mark Jamieson with Lutz Heuser, Chief Technology Officer from the Urban Software Institute in Germany.

03 – Andrew Downie (City of Greater Geelong) and Sean Bannister, winner of the 2015 Sunshine Coast Council Hackfest.

04 – Greg Young and Adam Stewart from Sunshine Coast Council.

05 – Closing keynote speaker David Bartlett, Russell Mason (CEO, Suncare Community Services) and Tony Chadwick (GIS People, Brisbane).

06 – Unity College student Jordan Josic, Jarna Baudinette (ASCA) and Shanna Douglas (RDA Sunshine Coast).

07 - Megan McMaster (Kawana Waters State College), Danielle Gowlett (Caloundra State High School), Jane Argue (Mountain Creek State High School), Shanna Douglas (RDA Sunshine Coast).

Australian Smart Communities Association

The Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA) is a collaborative coalition of local government, Regional Development Australia and Regional Organisations of Councils built on the premise of sharing information and advocating for the resources to assist the localised transition to a digital economy.

ASCA's membership includes representatives from government, business, industry and communities across all states and territories in Australia.

The adoption of smart technology in city/town management, energy, water, health and transport, along with high-speed broadband, could add more than 70,000 jobs to the Australian economy and bring 1.5 percent growth to Australia's Gross Domestic Product within five years.

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