



Basis of authority

The University was established under *The Sunshine Coast University College Act 1994* and officially opened by the Governor of Queensland, Mrs Leneen Forde AC, in 1996. Full university powers were granted to the University under *The University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998*.

Functions of the University

The University's functions are to:

- provide education at university standard
- provide facilities for, and to encourage, study and research
- encourage the advancement and development of knowledge, and its application to government, industry, commerce and the community
- provide courses of study or instruction, at the levels of achievement the Council considers appropriate, to meet the needs of the community
- confer higher education awards, and to:
 - a) provide facilities and resources for the wellbeing of the University's staff, students and other persons undertaking courses at the University
 - b) exploit commercially, for the University's benefit, a facility or resource of the University, including, for example, study, research or knowledge, or the practical application of study, research or knowledge, belonging to the University, whether alone or with someone else
 - c) perform other functions given to the University under this Act or another Act

University powers

- (1) Under *The University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998* the University has all the powers of an individual and may, for example:
 - a) enter into contracts
 - b) acquire, hold, dispose of, and deal with property
 - c) appoint agents and attorneys
 - d) engage consultants
 - e) fix charges, and other terms, for services and other facilities it supplies
 - f) do anything else necessary or convenient to be done for its functions.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the University has the powers given to it under this Act or another Act.
- (3) The University may exercise powers inside and outside Queensland.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), the University may exercise its powers outside Australia.

Governing body

Under *The University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998*, Council (page 9) is designated as the University's governing body. In particular, Council has the power to appoint University staff, and manage and control University affairs, property and finances.

Controlled entities

Innovation Centre

The University established the Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast Pty Ltd (ICSC) on 26 October 2000, under *The University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998 Part 2(6)*.

The company is supported by the University, Maroochy Shire Council, State and Federal Governments and by private business. The primary purpose of the company is to provide leadership that underpins the creation of new jobs in businesses in knowledge-based sectors, with a focus on the Knowledge Precinct development at Sippy Downs (page 36).

ICSC operates an award-winning technology business incubator located in the Innovation Centre Building, a \$7 million facility on the edge of the University campus.

The incubator has supported the growth of 30 early-stage businesses to date, in sectors such as software development, multimedia, biotechnology and sustainable water solutions.

In May 2006, ICSC launched a major initiative—the Enterprisers program—to support motivated students and graduates to start businesses. Staff will run the program in January 2007 in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (page 36).

The Australian Institute of Management was contracted to conduct a major review of the Innovation Centre in the latter part of the year, and the results will be the subject of discussion in 2007.

The Queensland Audit Office audits the company's financial statements. These are reported in the Consolidated Statements section of the University's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Multi Access Productions

The University established Multi Access Productions Pty Ltd (MAP) on 21 March 2006, under *The University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998 Part 2(6)*.

MAP is the first spin-out business of the University of the Sunshine Coast, resulting from research collaboration with an international consortium of universities and information technology company IBM in the areas of accessible communications and voice recognition technology.

An independent review of MAP was conducted and finalised in December 2006. The report will influence decisions on the future of MAP in 2007.

The Queensland Audit Office audits the company's financial statements. These are reported in the Consolidated Statements section of the University's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Policy

A policy for the Establishment and Operation of Controlled Entities was approved by University Council on 5 December 2006.