**Shirebiz Bulletin 16th February 2021**

**Last chance to have your say on the Heathcote Bridge widening 24th Feb**Wider lanes, safe shoulders, koala crossings …. Don't forget to [make a submission](https://www.shirebiz.net.au/nrsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Last-chance-to-have-your-say-on-the-Heathcote-Bridsge-widening-24th-Feb.pdf) and tell us what you think about the Heathcote Road bridge widening project's Review of Environmental Factors. Transport for NSW has carried out an environmental assessment for the Heathcote Road bridge widening project. We welcome your on the questions and comments on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) including our proposal and management plans to minimise any impacts on the environment, biodiversity, heritage, soil and water.

# **Working securely with Defence Guide released for suppliers.**

# A [guide for small businesses](https://www.shirebiz.net.au/nrsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WORKING-SECURELY-WITH-DEFENCE-GUIDE-RELEASED-FOR-SUPPLIERS.pdf) on security practices has been released today, with approximately 40 per cent of companies applying for work in defence not having the necessary cybersecurity measures in place.

# **UK to launch new research agency to support high risk, high reward science**

UK government will launch the [Advanced Research & Invention Agency](https://www.shirebiz.net.au/nrsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UK-to-launch-new-research-agency-to-support-high-risk-high-reward-science.pdf) (ARIA), a new independent research body to fund high-risk, high-reward scientific research

ARIA will be led by prominent, world-leading scientists who will be given the freedom to identify and fund transformational science and technology at speed.

the new agency will help to cement the UK’s position as a global science superpower, while shaping the country’s efforts to build back better through innovation

[**Science calls for $2.4b research translation fund**](https://innovationauscom.cmail20.com/t/i-l-mdrtudl-jdjilidrir-o/)

The nation’s peak science lobby has called on government to use $2.4 billion in savings from  
 the R&D Tax Incentive to create a [new research translation](https://www.shirebiz.net.au/nrsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Science-calls-for-2.4b-research-translation-fund.pdf) and commercialisation fund.  
[**New program establishes Victoria as leading AI destination**](https://monkeymedia.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e6d0adbac799cc2e86731639b&id=a620c8b16e&e=6229383d7b)In a major step for establishing Victoria as a leader in artificial intelligence (AI) technology, a new $100 million venture capital fund and an Australian-first accelerator program to scale-up AI companies are launching from a new base in Richmond. Backed by $1.5 million from the Victorian Government through its startup agency LaunchVic and $8 million of private sector capital via Venture Capital manager Artesian, [Boab AI’s Scaleup program](https://www.shirebiz.net.au/nrsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/New-program-establishes-Victoria-as-leading-AI-destination.pdf) is set to support 32 mature AI scaleups over four years.

**Australian Standard for Defence Contracting**As part of a broader program of industry reforms, the Minister for Defence Industry the Honourable Melissa Price MP announced the Terms of Reference for the Australian Standard for Defence Contracting (ASDEFCON) and Defence [Procurement Review](https://www.shirebiz.net.au/nrsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Australian-Standard-for-Defence-Contracting-Defence-Procurement-Review-Survey.pdf) on 04 December 2020. Following initial input from Defence industry, some of the areas to be reviewed include: a. simplifying and streamlining the ASDEFCON contracting templates; and b. removing complexity and onerous flow-down obligations that lead to additional cost and risk to the suppliers.

**What are big batteries and how they could reshape the electricity grid.**But as it turned out, [the big battery](https://www.shirebiz.net.au/nrsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/What-are-big-batteries-and-how-could-they-reshape-the-electricity-grid.pdf) – more properly known as the Hornsdale Power Reserve – was built in just two months in 2017 for around $90 million, and it has served its purpose so well since that big batteries are now under construction across the country. “I think that was a defining moment. I think it made this technology real for people,” says Dr Alex Wonhas, the chief engineering office for the Australian Energy Market Operator. According to the AEMO, since that battery was completed there has been a rush of new developments. **The Tipping Point**

UNSW Scientist Veena Sahajwalla is a recycling revolutionary whose bold new ideas reduce landfill. Now she’s unveiling her latest brainchild, an invention which turns the discarded into the designer. See [video](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australian-story/series/2021/video/NC2102Q003S00).