

Bulletin Aug 24th 2020

The next normal for Australian industries and workforces

For those who seek to comprehend the outlook for Australia amid the ongoing COVID19 crisis the scale and uncertainty of the macroeconomic indicators make for dramatic reading. This McKinsey [report](#) paints a comprehensive picture of the new normal.

Simple reforms to boost cities and the bush

The NSW Government Productivity Commissioner suggests a number of small [reforms](#) which would make it easier to work in NSW as well as lower the cost of living in the State.

Former Highway Patrol officer supports campaign for Heathcote Road bridge duplication

As part of Shirebiz's [advocacy](#) for improved transport infrastructure in the Shire, we support the duplication of the eastern end of Heathcote Road including the bridge over the Woronora River. The attached [article](#) gives further support from an experienced transport practitioner.

Annual Economic Update with Craig James, CommSec

Understand what is happening with the Australian Economy. Craig James, chief economist at CommSec, courtesy of Sullivan Dewing Accountants, presents the latest economic update, provides insights and identifies opportunities to survive and thrive within the current climate. Please find below links to the [recording](#) of the recent webinar and a [PDF copy](#) of the PowerPoint presentation.

Top10 Products and Services Australian Defence is interested in

The federal government's investment strategy into Australia's defence capability is set out clearly. Enhancements in naval shipbuilding infrastructure, protected mobility vehicles, combat clothing and aerospace integration are included as vital projects in building a stronger future for the defence sector. Defence's requirements are set out in [detail](#).

AER highlights falling wholesale energy prices

In the Australian Energy Regulator's latest Wholesale Markets Quarterly [Report](#) for Q2 2020, the lowest average annual spot has been identified for wholesale electricity prices across all areas in five years and gas prices in four years.

Good news for manufacturers as mining companies open their wallets

A surprising and sustained strength in key commodity prices has brought cheer to manufacturing and maintenance operations supporting Australia's commodities export industries. While LNG gas prices are down and thermal coal is increasingly seen as yesterday's fuel, prices for hard resources from iron ore to copper and gold are at very high levels. This has in turn encouraged miners, who had previously clamped down on maintenance and expansions, to switch the tap back on [again](#).

NSW Government: Let's get serious about COVID Reforms

The NSW Government reminds us of the [rules](#) which are most effective to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the State. These include social distancing, good handwashing hygiene, and getting tested immediately if you have any symptoms.

Cyber strategy needs user centric design

Home Affairs have produced a comprehensive document that was admirably broad but did not reflect the multi-dimensional complexity of cyber issues. Prof Seebeck, ANU Cyber Institute, argues for a user-centred design [version](#) of the document.