

# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

**17th August 2021**

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## About ShireBiz

ShireBiz is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the Economic Development of Southern Sydney to enable sustainable business development which provides employment opportunities for the local community.

Our current projects include:

- Support of the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct
- Liaising with Transport NSW on the Turn-up and Go shuttle bus program
- Promote the vision of Sutherland as the Commercial Centre of the Shire
- Made submissions to Federal and State Governments on Career advising and STEM Education
- Made submissions to the NSW Government to replace the Heathcote Rd. Bridge over the Woronora with a 4-lane bridge.

**Shirebiz supporters** are invited to continue to support Shirebiz by becoming members. [Join at.](#)

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## Mark Speakman: My Shire My Shot

Don't wait. Vaccinate. Vaccination is one of the greatest public health achievements of the last century. Today it offers us the pathway out of lockdown and back to freedom. There

are two safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccines. After speaking to your GP, you should take the first vaccine you can get. Each is estimated to reduce the chance of hospitalisation or death by around 90%. Join the [#MyShireMyShot campaign](#) to get our local vaccination rates up as quickly as we can.

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## **Inside Retail Aug 2021**

Various [news items](#) including: SafeWork to ensure Sydney retailers comply with public health orders; FWO reveals four-tiered system for mandatory vaccinations in workplaces; Why omnichannel retail is changing how retailers measure success

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## **Let your customers be your marketeers**

Firstly we considered the customer experience and from reviewing social media, I got a very strong sense of the people behind the machines. These cutting tool manufacturers considered themselves as craftspeople who made objects just as beautiful and refined as a guitar. Tapping into this passion and profiling the person as well as the technology has differentiated us compared to our competitors. [Telling our users' stories](#) has helped us better engage and inform customers.

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## **ConnectED – Featuring the latest news & events across our student-to-workplace network.**

At this stage, we have updated and cancelled [work placements](#) until Week 8 of Term 3 and we will keep updating placements in line with NSW government guidelines as they are released. NESAs has ensured that Year 12 students are not negatively impacted if they are unable to complete their work placement due to COVID.

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## **New Draft Housing SEPP Released in NSW**

The much awaited NSW draft [Housing State Environmental Planning Policy](#) (SEPP) was recently released for public consultation. The draft Housing SEPP aims to facilitate the delivery of more diverse and affordable housing types to help address NSW's ongoing housing affordability crisis. Importantly, it contains new and updated provisions, across Seniors Housing, Coliving, Boarding Houses and Affordable Housing

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## **Medtech: NSW launches R&D Fund and new TechVouchers funding streams**

In this [edition](#) there's some info on the launch of the next round of programs in the NSW Innovation Scaleup Fund, funding opportunities with ANDHealth, as well as enhancing your commercialisation skills. Sadly, the upcoming BioCheers event planned for September will be postponed. We will announce the new date as soon as we can.

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## **Trust the science, Australians tell policymakers**

Australians overwhelmingly trust scientists and want science to drive policy-making, according to a [new report](#) commissioned by the peak industry body, Science and Technology Australia. The 3M State of Science Index measures public attitudes to science in 17 countries, including polling 1,000 Australians' trust levels.

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## **Council unveils streamlined tendering platform**

Townsville City Council has implemented a new tendering system, [VendorPanel](#), to streamline the tendering process and help businesses secure work. VendorPanel will become the platform used by external businesses to submit tenders and quotes for upcoming projects, respond to queries and provide updates to registered suppliers. Business Services and Finance Committee Chairperson, Margie Ryder, said the change to a new platform would make the tendering process a more user-friendly and efficient service.

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## Tech Council of Australia – The economic contribution of Australia's tech sector

The technology sector will be a key accelerator of economic growth in Australia in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future. It is now a critical pillar of the Australian economy, and will surpass the contribution of the primary and manufacturing industries in the next decade. The sector's [economic contribution](#) is not confined to the direct impact of tech businesses as a standalone industry. Instead, digital technologies are an essential part of the value chain and operations of most businesses in the economy

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## Estimating Australia's Blue Carbon Potential

A new \$3.3 million [research program](#) by BHP and CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, will seek to measure and quantify the net emissions reduction potential of Australia's mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes. The program will also quantify the value of other benefits these ecosystems provide for coastal protection, fisheries and biodiversity.

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*Regards,*

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