

# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

*26th July 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.

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**ZOOM Presentation: Economic Update with Craig James, Chief Economist of CommSec Wed 28<sup>th</sup> July 7:30 – 9 am**

The last 12 months have been turbulent, to say the least! To help you understand what is happening, and what is on the horizon, CommSec Chief Economist Craig James looks at the key issues likely to impact the economy over the course of 2022. From the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and economic equality caused by the pandemic to climate change and our relations with China, Craig will [provide insights](#) and identify opportunities to help you and your business thrive and survive.

## **New 'warm vaccine' effective against all key virus variants**

A 'warm' COVID-19 [vaccine](#) suitable for remote and resource-limited locations lacking access to cold storage supply chains is one step closer following an international collaboration between scientists from India and Australia.

## **Australia's Artificial Intelligence Action Plan**

Minister Porter has released Australia's first [AI Action Plan](#) at the second national AI summit, Tectonic 2.0. You can read the AI Action Plan at: <https://industry.gov.au/ai-action-plan> The Plan is a key initiative under the Australian Government's \$1.2 billion Digital Economy Strategy. It outlines the Australian Government's vision to establish Australia as a global leader in developing and adopting trusted, secure and responsible AI.

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## **Australians lose \$7.2m to computer-takeover scams in 2021**

In the first six months of 2021 alone, Australians have lost a combined \$7.2 million due to computer-takeover scams, a [new report](#) from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has revealed. This figure is up by 184 per cent over the same period last year, with close to 6,500 independent reports of scammers trying to convince people to download software that would provide access to personal computers and bank accounts.

## **Critical manufacturing trades qualifications are being updated**

With the increasing development of a modern manufacturing industry and the increasing skills issues being faced by business in Australia, it is essential that skills keep pace to meet the future needs of workers, employers and industry.

## **Clean Energy Careers Hub now live**

The Clean Energy Careers Hub is now live, launched by The Clean Energy Council (CEC) and offering a unique destination for the industry to list jobs focused on Australia's clean energy transition. Clean Energy Council Chief Executive, Kane Thornton, said, "The Clean Energy Careers Hub will help industry promote the wide range of jobs available across the sector and play a vital role in encouraging more people to join our burgeoning ranks."

## **Youth Partnership News Jul 21 2021**

Here we are in lockdown 2.0, working from home whilst we await the Government directive that we can re-commence working with schools to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students. Although the next couple of weeks of work placements are currently on hold, we are still working on providing placements for later in Term 3.

## **Councils oppose infrastructure contributions rule changes**

LGNSW is set to oppose infrastructure contribution rule changes that threaten to defer and reduce critical developer payments to councils at a Parliamentary inquiry. LGNSW President, Linda Scott, said the NSW Government had tried to sneak the changes through Parliament during the NSW Budget week in June to avoid scrutiny, but the peak association for councils successfully pushed back and the legislation was sent back to an Upper House Committee for review.

## **NAB backs growth of Australian Ag-Tech technology**

NAB (National Australia Bank) has signed on as a Foundation Member of the Australian Agritech Association (AusAgritech) as it looks to help build a world-class agricultural technology (AgTech) sector in Australia. Through the two-year partnership, NAB will support AusAgritech in its goal of developing a \$20 billion a year AgTech industry. This will be critical in creating jobs and new export opportunities that will benefit regional Australia.

## **The case for SMRs in Australia**

Nuclear power, particularly in the form of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), provides diversity in electricity generation and long-term energy security. Here we outline the case for Australia to consider SMRs as part of the clean energy mix:

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*Regards,*

**Richard Walker, Secretary, Shirebiz**

**Mobile: 0419617510**

**Email: [rwalker@shirebiz.net.au](mailto:rwalker@shirebiz.net.au)**