

ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

7th September 2021

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 strategic pillars are:

- **Job Creation** through projects such as *Supporting the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct*
- **Advocacy** such as *Improving Shire transport links*
- **Connecting the Community** through regular *newsletter*, and ZOOM and in person *events with prominent speakers*
- **Shirebiz supporters** are invited to continue to support Shirebiz by becoming members. [Join at](#)

You are invited to view the new Shirebiz [website](#)

Supply Chain vulnerabilities in Australia

It only takes events like the Suez Canal blockage or the COVID-19 pandemic to show

that the worst can happen. Putting supply chain resilience in perspective, a [poor-functioning supply chain](#) (and henceforth less resilient) can see delays on imports and exports, increases in costs, and reduced fuel security, all potentially resulting in burdening Australian businesses and weakening the economy

ACCC seeks sweeping reform to M&A law

The competition regulator says Australia's merger and acquisition laws are out of step with global standards and without reform will harm competition, innovation, and productivity. Competition tsar Rod Sims laid out his [vision for more effective merger laws](#) on Friday, saying he wanted to see a wider debate on the best approach.

The State race to network regions of renewables

for the National Electricity Market (NEM). A winning move in their strategy for renewables is the state-led networking of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) – regional hotspots rich with renewable potential. Here we take a look at how these special districts of renewables could completely transform both state energy infrastructure and the NEM [20-year vision](#). In 2020, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) released its circular economy.

Majority of small businesses believe government is not doing enough to help them

A [recent survey](#) revealed that 65 per cent of small-business owners do not believe that the Government is providing enough support to small businesses in light of the challenges they are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the latest the Titian Consulting *State of Small Business in COVID Times* survey, this sentiment comes as 60 per cent of small businesses have experienced a decline in revenue during the last financial year and an additional 20 per cent remained “stagnant” in their growth due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Electric Vehicle Council releases 2021 EV Policy ratings

The Electric Vehicle Council has released its [Electric Vehicle Council policy](#) scorecards for 2021, with New South Wales taking out the top spot, narrowly beating the ACT. The ratings are found in EVC's [State of Electric Vehicles 2021 report](#), which also finds that 8,688 electric vehicles were sold in the first half of 2021, already eclipsing the 6,900 electric vehicles sold over the whole of 2020. NSW (9/10) narrowly beat the ACT (8/10) and the NT and Tas (7/10), whilst Qld, SA, Vic, and WA scored 6/10.

Vietnam's Fintech Boom: What's in it for Australian business

With a young, upwardly-mobile population, ongoing economic growth, and over 100 million tech savvy consumers, Vietnam's banking and financial system is undergoing rapid transformation. The country is poised to emerge as one of Southeast Asia's most [competitive fintech markets](#). Buoyed by an influx of venture capital, this emerging fintech market not only spans eWallets, mobile payments and a vast network of backend technologies, but is redefining banking, insurance and other financial services.

The 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan has been released

Infrastructure Australia has released the [2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan](#), providing a 15-year roadmap for infrastructure reform to build a stronger and more secure Australia. The *2021 Plan* responds to the 180 infrastructure challenges and opportunities identified in Infrastructure Australia's *2019 Australian Infrastructure Audit*, and sets out detailed recommendations to deliver better infrastructure for all Australians. It also intends to support national recovery from the still-unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the bushfires, drought, floods and cyber-attacks that have tested resilience in recent years.

CSIRO develops cheap titanium wire for additive manufacturing

Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, has developed a [novel process](#) for turning inexpensive alloy waste into a high value wire product suitable for the additive

manufacturing market. The team is the first in Australia to produce titanium wire this way. They used low-cost titanium alloy particulates, like machining swarf, to produce a wire that can be used to make 3D printed parts such as aerospace components.

NUTEC Plastics: A nuclear solution to plastic pollution

Plastic pollution is a major environmental challenge that poses a direct threat to sustainable development and, ultimately, our livelihood. When no longer useful, plastics are often destined for incineration or landfills. Much of the plastic waste ends up in the oceans, harming marine life and potentially contaminating the seafood we eat. Nuclear techniques can help monitor and reduce plastic waste. We can only solve big issues when we come together,” said IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, during a [roundtable discussion](#) today with partners in Asia and the Pacific region.

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Regards,

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