



ShireBiz

Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

15th February 2022

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](#) If you want to regularly receive this Bulletin Contact the Secretary at info@shirebiz.org.au

Change procurement rules to stop ‘race to the bottom’ for manufacturing

There are fresh calls for more strategic government [procurement policies](#) after a manufacturing inquiry heard the current rules and international trade deals are undermining the Australian industry. Currently there is no local content mandate for federal government contracts, and Australia is a party to global agreements that require non-discrimination of foreign companies in government tenders, meaning immediate value for money concerns usually trump more strategic government tender objectives.

NSW Police warn of new Flubot Malware scam phishing texts

NSW Police posted a warning on their official Facebook page about the new [FluBot phishing](#) texts that have been making the rounds, sending malware links that enables download and installation of malicious software on to devices.

Australia can be an electric vehicle manufacturing giant: report

Published by the Australia Institute’s Carmichael Centre on Tuesday, the report on rebuilding domestic vehicle manufacturing found that Australia had a natural advantage to become a hub for electric vehicles (EVs) thanks to its large reserves of minerals critical to electrification and high quality automotive supply chains. [.new report](#) Australia can become a global automotive manufacturing powerhouse once again by pivoting to electric vehicles, but immediate action is needed from the government, according to a

Independent contracting in the spotlight after landmark court case

In summary, the [two cases](#), Jamsek v ZG Operations and CFMMEU v Personnel Contracting, have:

Reinforced the multi-factor approach as the means to determine whether a worker is in fact an employee or [contractor](#) to a principal. That is, all factors relevant to the contractual relationship are assessed to determine the worker’s true status.

Reinforced that the label the parties’ ascribe to the relationship is of minimal importance.

Tech failures are hurting incomes, living standards

Australian businesses are failing to [invest](#) adequately in cutting-edge technologies and falling behind global peers on productivity, contributing to a slowdown in people's living standards, new Treasury research reveals. A failure by governments to increase private competition against incumbent businesses to pressure firms to become more innovative may be a key problem behind the waning productivity performance of local business

Business upbeat, consumers fret over rates

Business confidence [bounced back](#) in January as the Omicron outbreak quickly peaked, and it may get a further boost on the reopening of international borders later this month. But while there are signs consumers have also got over the Omicron shock, their mood has been dampened by the possibility of an interest rate hike by the Reserve Bank of Australia this year.

How Australian tech businesses are exporting their wares

While Australia is known for its mining and resources industry, [technology](#) is our fourth-largest export sector. We exported [\\$8 billion in tech services in 2018](#) and the demand for Aussie tech is only going up. Australia is home to plenty of major multibillion-dollar success stories like Atlassian, Afterpay and Canva. But smaller businesses are also seeing significant growth and strong demand from international customers.

Realise Business: NSW Govt New Support for Small Businesses program

Following the announcement of the [New Support for Small Businesses](#) program last week, we would like to update with you additional information regarding the grant. Applications for the program open on Monday 14th February 2022 and close on the 31st March 2022. For the month of February, eligible employing businesses can apply for payments equivalent to 20% of their weekly payroll.

Why you should use accurate job costing to boost profit margin

Why you should use [accurate job costing](#) to boost profit margins We all know the story. Margins getting squeezed. Customers playing hardball on price. The economy has gone global. At the same time, you want to be competitive. You want to grow. And yep, you want to keep turning a profit. That's why, for any SMM, job costing has become an indispensable part of a successful business. Costing really can make the difference between achieving your ambitions and struggling to survive.

Webinar: Delivering Better Outcomes Through Digital Service Consolidation Wed 23 February 11am

Join this [webinar](#) to:

- Discover how to provide streamlined services to users through customer-centric service delivery models
- Better manage resources, workflows and field services across business functions and operations
- Drive seamless CX across a range of digital services, capitalising on each customer interaction to eliminate process duplication

CRCs call for more support for industry-led research

Cooperative Research Australia (CRA) has called for more federal investment into [industry-led research](#) to bolster the post-COVID economic recovery and underpin the development of new industries. The CRA today published a pre-budget submission which lists five proposals to increase federal support for industry-led research and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) program. Cooperative Research Australia is the peak representative body for industry-research collaboration.

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Regards,

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