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# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

**22nd February 2022**

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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 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](mailto:info@shirebiz.org.au)

## **Sutherland Council – Update to COVID 19 settings**

From last Friday, the [following adjustments](#) will be made to current settings: • no density limits (previously one person per 2sqm for hospitality venues) • QR check-ins will only be required for nightclubs, and for all music festivals with more than 1,000 people. Hospitals, aged and disability facilities may use their existing systems for recording visitor.

## **Realise Business: How Much Does Starting A Business Really Cost? Wednesday 23rd February from 11.00am - 1.00pm**

We will look into the nitty gritty things that you will need to consider when working out how much will starting a business [will really cost you](#) – from what corporate structure you choose, getting legal and accounting advice and working out what sales you need make to break even. Learn what is essential in planning to make your new business a viable one that will be around for the long term.

## **Lack of innovation is hurting productivity growth: Treasury**

The productivity gap between the most innovative companies in the world and Australian firms is growing, according to new analysis by economists at the federal Treasury, who found local companies are now slower to catch up to the “global frontier” than they were in the mid-2000s. The findings from a [technical paper](#) published this week suggest Australian firms “have been slower to adopt cutting-edge technology and processes, and to improve their productivity performances more generally” than in the past, which is acting as drag on productivity growth.

## **University project to help businesses fight cybercrime**

A CQUniversity project is developing a [prototype device](#) set to improve the security practices of small businesses in Australia. The device will work by allowing businesses to track their [cyber security](#) strength and notifying them of the actions required to continuously protect their online assets. This month, the project received \$40,000 in funding from the auDA Foundation grants to help develop the device which could help combat the \$33 billion cost of cybercrime in Australia.

## Blockchain Technology - Simplified

Currently, many people seem to be talking about [blockchain technology](#) and its impact on the digital economy. It would potentially impact greatly on how we deal with various financial transactions, eg, enforcing transparency, visibility, security and immediacy of transactional execution.

## Pilot program drives digital skills for manufacturing in NSW

Investment NSW and the Department of Education – Training Services NSW has [launched the 12-week Driving Digital Skills Pilot Program](#), which is designed to improve digital skills in the advanced manufacturing sector. The Driving Digital Skills Pilot Program will be delivered by the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC), Skills Lab, UTS and HR Culture through a series of courses and workshops on emerging technologies.

## ARA unleashes program to address 36,000 retail job vacancies

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) has partnered with the government's Department of Education, Skills and Employment to deliver an employment program. [The ARA Retail Ready Youth PaTH-Way Program](#) will engage 200 young people (15-24) to gain skills and jobs in the retail sector.

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## Business Australia Cyber Security Roundup Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2022

Addresses [issues](#) such as [The cyber security risks hiding in your supply chain](#); How stressed workers can become a security risk; Does your businesses have a cyber threat intelligence strategy and New downloadable resources for small businesses.

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## Austrade Export Update Feb 2022

Austrade helps exporters to deal worth \$100m in Greater China. Despite the challenges Austrade has reported that it helped deliver 150 [commercial outcomes](#) in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong over the past 12 months.

## **Defence scientists eye undersea technology gains**

Defence science, public sector researchers and industry are to collaborate to develop significant capability gains in areas such as sonar systems and undersea surveillance.

Projects have begun in the Advanced Piezoelectric Materials and Applications (APMA) Program under a five-year collaboration between DMTC Ltd (formerly, the Defence Materials Technology Centre) and defence scientists to accelerate the development of next-generation piezoelectric materials for defence applications.

## **NSW city councils secure coveted renewable energy contract**

Six New South Wales city councils have grouped together to acquire a competitive renewable energy contract spanning ten years. Lake Macquarie, along with Central Coast Council, Cessnock City Council, Maitland City Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council have grouped together to secure a long-term electricity agreement with Mojo Power backed by new renewable electricity generation projects in regional New South Wales and the Hunter Region.

**Shirebiz supporters** are invited to continue to support Shirebiz by becoming members.

Join at.



*Regards,*

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