



ShireBiz

Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

1st March 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

Realise Business: How to apply for Business Grants March 1st 10 am

This business grants workshop is the ideal, [practical guide to grant writing](#) for any business seeking to attain funding by applying for grants. This is a practical step by step workshop where grants from both the public and private sector will be assessed and participants will have the opportunity to draft grant applications in class and have them assessed by the facilitator

Mark Speakman: COVID-19 settings eased in schools

From Monday 28 February: [Year group requirements](#) and activity restrictions will be relaxed - enabling students to engage and interact more freely across classes and year groups. Schools will be able to welcome more visitors onto school grounds, including parents, and will resume activities such as assemblies and school camps. Mask requirements will be lifted for high school students and staff.

Commodities in 2022: Exploring six key themes

While 2021 was a year of surprises in the commodities world, with crushing lows offset by unprecedented highs, what can we expect in 2022? We take a deep dive. There's been a few [notable trends](#) to emerge in the commodities world to commence 2022. Nickel prices rose to 10-year highs in January, while lithium jumped amid a supply squeeze.

ANSTO Innovation Feb 2022: New superior light-weight fire retardant material

Scientists from UNSW and ANSTO have characterised the structure of advanced materials, that could be used as a [lightweight fire-retardant filler](#). Fire retardant materials can self-extinguish if they ignite. A team under Professor Guan Heng Yeoh, Director of the [ARC Training Centre for Fire Retardant Materials and Safety Technologies](#) at UNSW and Thermal-Hydraulic Specialist at ANSTO, are working to commercialise advanced products for bushfire fighting, building protection and other applications.

Australia's hydrogen future: how wastewater is changing the game

As we transition to more sustainable energy sources, it's clear that hydrogen production will play a major role in powering the future, with the Federal Government aiming to position Australia's hydrogen industry as a major global player by 2030. Monash University researchers, together with national water utilities, are now looking at ways to produce hydrogen energy more sustainably through [repurposing wastewater](#), putting Australia one step closer to its hydrogen targets.

More Australian states join Endeavour Group's recycling initiative

Endeavour Group has [expanded its beer can clip recycling](#) initiative to South Australia and Western Australia. Following the success of the initiative on the Eastern seaboard, the company has partnered with Prancing Pony Brewery in South Australia and Western Australian sustainability start-up, Donut Waste, to collect can clip units in select BWS and Dan Murphy's stores in the respective states.

Don't let the banks slow down business growth

A Melbourne based commercial plasterer found themselves needing some innovative working capital options to buy critical materials to complete customer contracts. Although their bank was an option, they didn't have time for drawn-out approvals and a heavy application process. If possible, an off-balance sheet, non debt was preferred. The solution was a [Fifo Capital Supply Chain](#) (payables) Finance facility.

Workers compn bill heads to NSW inner house

A NSW upper house committee has recommended the rejection of changes to [workplace compensation](#) that would require frontline workers infected with COVID-19 to prove where they got it. A section was added to the Workers Compensation Act

in May 2020, providing a presumption that certain workers in frontline industries who catch COVID-19 were infected at work and should be supported through workers compensation. The bill seeks to have that section removed.

“Productivity needs to improve,” but is that the real problem – by John Sheridan

The RBA, the BCA, government ministers and others are all back on the bandwagon again – “[Australia’s productivity](#) needs to improve before people can expect wage rises”. One of the measures of productivity is Gross Domestic Product per hours worked. This refers largely to how much work is accomplished by a worker in a particular work environment over a period of time.

Australia’s geology gave us an abundance of coal – and greentech minerals to switch to

Two recent [announcements](#) hint at a seismic shift about to hit Australia’s coal industry. Australian tech billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes and Canada’s Brookfield [put forward](#) an extraordinary joint bid to takeover AGL Energy, Australia’s [biggest emitting company](#), over the weekend. If successful, it would see AGL’s coal-fired power stations shut down early. And last week, Origin Energy announced that the country’s largest coal plant, Eraring, [will close](#) seven years early

Mintel: Key Global Consumer trends in 2022

As the experts in what consumers want and why Mintel is best suited to accurately predict the future of consumer behaviour and what that means for brands and global markets. Looking ahead to 2022, our [market trend analysis](#) and prediction research are grounded by observations of the key drivers of consumer behaviour and backed by Mintel’s robust data sets. See [Report](#). The combination of consumer and market data, predictive analytics, action-oriented insights and expert recommendations is an innovative approach that’s uniquely Mintel.

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Regards,

Richard Walker, Secretary, Shirebiz

Mobile: 0419617510

Email: info@shirebiz.org.au