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# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

**21st June 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:

- Advocacy for business investment, traction and job diversity eg projects such as supporting *the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct*
- Advocacy for infrastructure investment, policy change and streamlining regulatory environments in the Sutherland Shire
- Engaging the community through regular *newsletter*, and *events*

**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

## **Big reforms in NSW**

We only spend 2.5 per cent of our total education budget on preschool, although children learn more in their first five years than at any other time and there is a veritable tsunami of evidence that early education improves children's NAPLAN scores, PISA scores, and gives them a raft of soft skills they will need for later employment." It's a neat summary of the argument for [greater investment](#) in early childhood education, an argument that appears to have been accepted this morning by the NSW and Victorian governments.

## **CEDA releases IMD world competitiveness Yearbook**

Australia's future competitiveness is not assured without lifting our game on areas such as technology, energy, skills and training, entrepreneurship, tax and productivity." The IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook is the leading annual report on the [competitiveness](#) of countries and has been published by IMD since 1989. CEDA is the yearbook's Australian partner.

## **The future of customer service**

The psychological and social impacts of COVID-19 have been making headlines since 2020 – “We're all socially awkward now” and “Why we may have to re-learn to socialise” being still-relevant examples. In March of this year, the World Health Organization announced that the pandemic had triggered a [25 per cent increase](#) in the prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide, and UK education watchdog Ofsted reported that the pandemic delayed social skills in children.

## **Fast, flexible and affordable upskilling now availableARI**

The Australian Retail Institute is putting [professional development](#) at your fingertips with the launch of our NEW online micro-course platform. Our bite-sized, OnDemand courses allow you and your teams to control what, when, where and how to engage, learn and build skills and knowledge.

## **Australia's National Electricity Market was just suspended. Here's why and what happens next**

Australia's energy market operator has just suspended the National Electricity market. That means instead of the price for wholesale electricity being set competitively, the market operator (AEMO) sets fixed prices and will take a greater role in directing which power stations generate energy and when. This is the first time the market has been suspended across all states, and reflects the depth of the price and supply crisis plaguing Australia's biggest electricity grid.

## **CSIRO launches cyber security program for SMEs Applications close 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, is helping to tackle the growing threat of cyber attacks facing Australian manufacturing by providing free research and development support to businesses working in the cyber security sector. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) working on new cyber security solutions can join the free, 10-week online Innovate to Grow program, offered by CSIRO, to support their commercial idea with research and development expertise.

## **Australia submits more ambitious 2030 emissions target to UN**

Australia's new centre-left government submitted more ambitious emissions targets to the United Nations Thursday, seeking to end a decade of foot dragging on climate change. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese raised the country's 2030 emissions reduction target to 43 percent, up from a more modest previous target of 26-28 percent. The new goal "sets Australia up for a prosperous future, a future powered by cleaner, cheaper energy," Albanese said

## **Learn of the new opportunities for business in Defence procurement - 5<sup>th</sup> July**

The Western Sydney Defence Suppliers network is holding an industry briefing to outline the NEW and existing opportunities in today's Defence Industry. The

purpose of the industry briefing is inform local business of the many new opportunities in the expanding Australian Defence industry. Opportunities exist in the traditional areas of Defence and Defence support and in the new domains of cyber warfare and low orbital space. This event is a great chance for local businesses to learn of the multiple Defence industry opportunities available.

## **The 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards open 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Are you an outstanding inclusive business who endeavours to improve access and or participation for people with a disability? Nominations for the Access and Inclusion Award can be found [here](#).

## **Asia-Link Business News June 2022**

[Articles](#) include Tech and climate top priorities for growing Indonesian economic ties; eCommerce in Indonesia: Building your market opportunities; Vietnam Business Briefing: Seizing opportunities in Fintech and eCommerce; Digital Tech in Indonesia and Asialink Leaders 2022 welcomed

## **Retailers respond to Fair Work Commission Annual Wage Review**

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) said today's decision of the Fair Work Commission to increase the minimum wage could tip some businesses over the edge as costs continue to rise. The ARA's submission was for the [minimum wage](#) to increase by 3.2%, which took in account the intense cost pressures businesses are under, while ensuring the wages of frontline workers could keep pace with the rising cost of living.

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*Regards,*

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