



ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

12th December 2023

If you would like to receive this bulletin on a regular basis contact the Secretary on info@shirebiz.org.au

Vaccination – A fair shot

Vaccination rates have plummeted since the height of the pandemic, and Australia urgently needs a policy reset to save lives and take pressure off hospitals, according to a new [Grattan Institute report](https://grattan.edu.au/report/a-fair-shot-ensuring-all-australians-can-get-the-vaccines-they-need/). The report, **A fair shot: How to close the vaccination gap** (<https://grattan.edu.au/report/a-fair-shot-ensuring-all-australians-can-get-the-vaccines-they-need/>) , shows that millions of older Australians at much higher risk of serious illness or death are not being vaccinated against COVID, flu, shingles, and pneumococcal disease.

November was a busy month of advocacy for Business NSW and our members

The influential housing alliance, [Housing Now!](#) set up alongside universities and unions has gained a lot of upward momentum. Following our [sustained advocacy efforts](#), the NSW Government has announced a suite of reforms to help solve the biggest crisis of our generation, including pattern book design, modular housing

and greater provision for medium density development.

Invite Sutherland Shire Business Chamber Xmas Party Dec 14th 6 – 9pm Highfields Caringbah

Thanks to our major sponsor, Melissa J. Scott, we will have a fantastic 2-piece band entertaining you on the night, as well as an amazing magician. It's the perfect opportunity to connect, unwind, and toast to a successful year with [fellow business owners](#). Please note that the [ticket sale will be closing on Monday 11 December by 3pm](#). Secure your spot for this much-anticipated event now.

COSBOA Update December 2023

The end of the year is fast approaching and it's been a big one for the COSBOA team as we continue to represent the interests of small business organisations of Australia. [Cyber security](#) has been an important area of investment to help keep small businesses safe. Increasingly complex and hurried industrial relations changes have been a significant concern as we seek a positive IR environment that supports and encourages productivity, flexibility and innovation. Labour shortages and the cost of doing business have been growing challenges for small businesses throughout year.

Gratton Institute – Hydrogen Report

Hydrogen can help Australia hit net-zero carbon emissions and become a green energy superpower – but only if it gets targeted government support. A new Gratton Institute report, [Hydrogen: hype, hope, or hard work?](#) calls on the federal government to promote hydrogen use in the production of ammonia, alumina, and iron. The cost to the government would probably be between \$600 million and \$2 billion per year. But the prize for Australia would be reduced emissions from domestic production of ammonia, alumina, and iron, and new export industries that ultimately wouldn't need subsidies.

Drive electric NSW - Discover how to make your new year electric

Across NSW, 167 sites have already plugged in with the help of the EV destination charging grants. [The grants](#) cover up to 75% of the purchase and installation costs of EV chargers for eligible regional NSW businesses and councils. Will you be the next regional site to get your business on the EV map? Applications for round 2 close Friday 3 May 2024.

Export Update: Meet the Exporters of the Year

Minister for Trade and Tourism, Senator the Hon Don Farrell hosted an inspiring awards ceremony at Parliament House on 30 November, to celebrate this year's category winners and all [86 national finalists](#). "The quality of finalists this year was exceptional, and they are to be commended for their significant contributions to Australia's economy and the jobs they've helped to create."

NSW MVP grant applications open

Applications have opened for the NSW government's [MVP Ventures Program](#), which offers grants of between \$25,000 and \$50,000 to startups and SMEs to help commercialise "highly innovative and new products or processes". The round opened on Monday for the program, which has been allocated up to \$3 million per annum to 2027 by the state government

Recycling 'More' Shouldn't Be the Standalone Goal

In years gone by during [National Recycling Week](#), the general discourse has focused on household waste and the need for consumers to "do more", but attention has clearly shifted to the pivotal role of commercial and industrial supply chains in delivering sustainability outcomes. As Chair of Circular Australia's Industry Taskforce and founder of Great Plastic Rescue by Civic Futures Lab; this shift is encouraging

Winners of coveted building and construction awards revealed

The building and construction industry's most outstanding projects and achievements were celebrated at the [2023 National Excellence in Building and Construction Awards](#) in Perth on Saturday night. Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn congratulated the winners of the 51 award categories and finalists for reaching this highly competitive stage. The three-day annual event culminated in the recognition of the nation's top builders in residential, commercial and civil construction, highlighting the projects that have earned them acclaim.

Graphene oxide study strengthens the case for smart concrete

Engineers have added graphene oxide to cement mixture to make [stronger 3D printed concrete](#) that is easier to print, paving the way to create potential 'smart' walls that can monitor cracks. The research, conducted by RMIT University and University of

Melbourne, is the first to investigate the effects of graphene oxide on the printability and compressive properties of 3D printed concrete

NDIS Review report released

Creating more services outside the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\)](#), including support for children with developmental delays, and hinging access on impairment instead of medical diagnosis, are among the key recommendations from a [long-awaited review](#). The landmark report followed a year-long inquiry into the scheme, which was called over concerns the [NDIS had become an "oasis in the desert"](#) for people with disability and its cost was growing at an unsustainable rate.

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 would like to thank our supporters for your support over the last year

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. We would also appreciate feedback on the content.



Regards,

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