

ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

19th December 2023

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

Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas
and a prosperous
New Year



Thank you for all your
support throughout 2023.

On behalf of the Shirebiz Board we wish to thank all our subscribers for their support and wish you the Compliments of the Season and a Prosperous New Year.

Shirebiz Report on Activities 2023

Shirebiz has been fairly active in 2023 holding Quarterly meetings. distributing a weekly newsletter. As part of its advocacy role for business in the Shire, Shirebiz has established Industry Round Tables in Education, Marine and Health industries. In 2024 it is proposed to set up a Hospitality industry Round Table.

Why only a fourth of SMEs rely on Christmas as peak revenue period

Research by leading small business lender OnDeck Australia has dispelled the myth that the festive season is a sales bonanza for the nation's small businesses. Among 500 small businesses surveyed by OnDeck, just one in five (22%) said Christmas is a peak revenue period. Drilling down further into OnDeck's findings, only one in two (49%) small retailers point to the festive period as a critical sales period.

CEDA: Wrapping up a blockbuster Year

Includes: Livestream – The future of the NDIS by Hon Bill Shorten; Presentation on NSW Transport Portfolio Update with Non Jo Haylen; 15th Feb 2024; Articles on: Labor's migration strategy to focus on national-building people power; Navigating the complexity of disability services in Australia and Women in rail: breaking occupational gender segregation in the industry

nbn News – Innovation is at the core of everything we do

Since its inception, nbn has set out to lift the digital capability of our growing nation, ensuring people and businesses across Australia have access to fast, reliable and secure broadband. The world has changed a lot in that time, but our commitment to innovation and reinvestment into Australia's broadband network remains the same.

Digital skills gap a challenge for Australia's construction industry

Amid economic uncertainty, the Australian construction industry continues to face significant challenges that impede productivity, with the digital skills gap emerging as a prominent obstacle. Autodesk's Constructing tomorrow: building a dynamic workforce for the future eBook delves into the impact of these challenges on productivity in the industry, marked by inefficiencies, delays and cost overruns in project execution. Sumit Oberoi, senior manager, industry strategist, APAC at Autodesk, highlighted that the construction industry still confronts difficulties in the aftermath of the pandemic, such as an undersupply of skilled labour, costly materials and supply chain disruptions.

EarthPower comes back online

Veolia will bring NSW's only industrial scale biodigester plant dedicated to leftover food organics back online in April 2024, with an enhanced processing capacity of more than 50,000 tonnes per year. The [EarthPower plant](#) has just undergone a refit to supercharge the technology for energy recovery and the circular economy. There has already been strong interest from large businesses looking for a sustainable way to dispose of waste food and liquid organics.

Geotab: Keeping tabs on trucks

[Geotab provides tracking](#) and insights on fleets and key personnel for its customers. To uncover more about this impressive technology, MHD sat down with Geotab's Associate Vice President of Sales, David Brown. With more than 20 years of experience delivering connected transportation solutions to more than 47,000 customers, Geotab provides leading data research and innovation to support supply chains globally with its systems capable of revolutionising fleet management

ARA Institute: Training & Education Opportunities in 2024

In the new year, the ARA Retail Institute will embark on exciting collaborations with key national retailers to provide exceptional leadership training. This will focus on [crafting career-based journeys](#) for retail employees. Look out for our announcements in January. These retailers have created distinct programs tailored to their employees' needs, recognising the diversity within roles and retail environments.

Australian Government supports businesses to adopt AI

A new program to support Australian businesses to adopt and integrate artificial intelligence safely into their work practices has been launched by the minister for industry and science, Ed Husic. The [Australian Government's Artificial Intelligence Adopt Program](#) will provide \$17 million to establish up to five AI Adopt centres across Australia. Applications for the Artificial Intelligence Adopt Program are open until 29 January 2024.

Service NSW: New laws to help uncover building defects sooner

Significant changes have been made to give homeowners greater confidence and increase standards of construction on NSW homes. [Building Commission NSW inspectors](#) now have the power to inspect freestanding houses and terraces at any time, anywhere. Inspectors can enter houses under construction or post construction and order defects to be fixed if found. The change aligns with existing powers for apartment buildings to provide better protection for all people building or buying a new home in NSW.

Pumped hydro and desalination together? A study says yes!

Cornell University engineers have refined a concept for [desalinating ocean water](#) for large, drought-stricken coastal populations. It will also see the implementation of pumped hydro. By pumping seawater to a mountaintop reservoir and then employing gravity to send the salty water down to a co-located hydropower plant and a reverse osmosis desalination facility, the process can satisfy the energy and hydration needs of coastal cities with one system.

AusIndustry: R&D Tax Incentives December 2023

Issue includes: [New video on how to register your R&D activities](#); **Nominations open: Prime Minister's Prize for Science; Industry Growth Program now open**; [Secure your business against a cyber incident](#); [Go Global Toolkit: new Health sector opportunities](#) **and** [New accelerator to help Australian and Indian climate tech startups RISE!](#)

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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