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# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

**27th February 2024**

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contact the Secretary on [info@shirebiz.org.au](mailto:info@shirebiz.org.au)**

## **CEDA: The productivity lens is missing in recent government reforms**

A consistent message from [our members] is the need to be bolder in seeking to reinvigorate innovation and productivity and concern that [recent legislative and regulatory changes](#) are working against this. The Right to Disconnect bill is the latest example of this.” How economic prosperity is important for social cohesion.

## **Australian Universities Accord Final Report**

On 25 February 2024, the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, released the Australian Universities Accord Final Report. The Australian Universities Accord Final Report contains 47 recommendations for Government consideration and aims to create a long-term reform plan for the higher education sector to meet Australia’s

future skills needs. [Summary Report](#); [Full Report](#).

## **Weight bias persists in workplace**

A survey found half of managers prefer interacting with employees who aren't overweight. is more common than we think and is often overlooked in diversity and inclusion training. Even companies that put focus and resources behind inclusivity say weight bias has not been reported on the radar, The Wall Street Journal reports.[Discrimination based on body size](#)A survey found half of managers prefer interacting with employees who aren't overweight. How can HR combat bias and stigma associated with weight?

## **Australian Government: R&D Tax Incentive Insider**

Includes: Get ready to register for the R&D Tax Incentive; Updates to the software exclusion; Check your R&D adviser's registration; Know the rules when claiming overseas R&D activities; Customer story – LLEAF; In case you missed it – R&D Tax Incentive Insider PLUS; and New guidance for engaging with artificial intelligence

## **MRFF awards \$50million to Australian Team developing artificial heart**

The federal government has announced \$50 million from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to assist development and commercialisation of an Australian [inventor's total artificial heart](#), which uses a rotor rather than pulsation to move blood through a patient's body. According to a statement on Tuesday from federal health minister Mark Butler, the grant to the Artificial Heart Frontiers Program was the third-largest in almost a decade of the MRFF's existence. The consortium involves five universities, three clinical partners, and BiVACOR

## **CSIRO Snapshot – February 2024**

Includes: Night parrot secrets unlocked after first genome sequence; 2023 was the warmest year on record: Decades of success for CSIRO's total well being diet; Watch – Can we recycle renewable technology? Industry PhDs offer exciting research projects possibilities

## **ARA: The Big Shift: Navigating Australia's Evolving Employment Landscape.**

The Big Shift: Navigating Australia's [Evolving Employment Landscape](#) enables businesses, policymakers and workers to navigate the intricate landscape of Australia's evolving employment sector, ultimately shaping the future of work across the nation in 2024. How Australia's shift worker industry landscape is changing. Deep dives and insights on 4 key industries;

## **CSIRO, Standards Australia release new tool for understanding standards on hydrogen projects**

CSIRO and Standards Australia have launched [HyStandards](#), an interactive tool designed to provide the relevant Australian and international standards for hydrogen projects to industry users. CSIRO's Hydrogen Industry Mission leader, Dr Patrick Hartley, said HyStandards allowed users to choose from five different scenarios which then display a list of applicable standards. The scenarios are electrolyser hydrogen production, gaseous hydrogen transport by road, hydrogen transport by pipeline, blended hydrogen transport by pipeline, and hydrogen refuelling.

## **Plibersek prepared to step in if fashion industry doesn't step up on recycling**

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek says she's ready to regulate if more big fashion brands don't sign up to an industry-led scheme that plans to put a levy on garments to reduce the amount of clothing that goes to landfill. [The Seamless scheme](#), launched by Plibersek in June last year and led by the Australian Fashion Council, aims to have 60 per cent of the clothing industry sign up by 2027 and has so far attracted brands including Big W, Cotton On Group, The Iconic and David Jones.

## **Calling on small businesses to support GRIA application**

The ARA, working with a consortium of 20 members, has lodged an application to vary the General Retail Industry Award (GRIA) with the Fair Work Commission. To support our application, we are interested in hearing from small businesses who use the GRIA and would be in a position to provide evidence about how the award impacts their business and appear as a witness in support of our application. To express your interest Contact [policy@retail.org.au](mailto:policy@retail.org.au)

## **CEDA: Economic & Policy Outlook 2024**

Includes: : Setting Australia up for long-term success; The labour market must work even harder this year; WFH debate must refocus on productivity; A critical year for emissions targets and energy policy and Work-from-home battle begins – and the decision could affect millions.

## **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](mailto:info@shirebiz.org.au). We would also appreciate feedback on the content.

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*Regards,*

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