



ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

7th May 2024

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[Business NSW – Business Conditions Survey *What's holding your business back?*](#)

Businesses across NSW are experiencing missed opportunities everyday due to a

mix of reasons. High operating costs and weak customer spending continue to [hamper business performance](#), while red tape and falling workers' productivity add to the basket of challenges. To improve operational efficiency and business results, we want to understand what support businesses like yours would appreciate from the NSW Government

Towards 3% R&D – Medical manufacturing to propel the economy by Dig Howitt of Cochlear

The current policy debate on the future of [innovation and manufacturing](#) in Australia is important. To agree the best way forward, it's useful to reflect on the history of how Professor Clark's innovation navigated the research translation phase to become the Cochlear we know today. Professor Graeme Clark started the development of the cochlear implant at the University of Melbourne in 1967, driven by his desire to help his father's hearing loss.

As hacks and scams hit small businesses, ASBFEO calls for new digital media dispute service

Small businesses locked in a dispute with social media giants deserve further support, the SME ombudsman says, calling for a [new arbitration service](#) capable of taking the fight to powerful digital platforms. An extensive review undertaken by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) found digital platforms, including online marketplaces and social media hotspots, often fail to resolve small business complaints in a timely and effective manner.

Tools of change: Fixing the skills shortage in construction

If you don't know Empowered Women in Trades (EWIT) – we are all about creating more opportunities for women to pick up the tools and take advantage of the fantastic opportunities in skilled trades and the [construction industry](#) that men have been enjoying since, well, forever. EWIT has only been around for a couple of years but last year 5,000 women took part in our activities.

Webinar: Hear how Downer improved efficiency and fuelled growth by Digitalising site processes Wed May 22nd 3:30pm

Faced with a skills shortage and unprecedented demand, automating processes can save valuable time and money. In this webinar you can hear how Downer Construction has achieved just that by [digitalising their site processes](#). *By registering for this free industry event, you will learn:*

About real world non-IT process automation success stories; How Downer Construction digitised over 2,000 PO requests in the first six months after its launch
How to develop a successful process automation strategy; How to improve management of site staff and quality of documentation while reducing admin time

ARA: Consultation on Core Skills Occupations List

The ARA is in the process of preparing our submission for the Jobs and Skills Australia Draft [Core Skills Occupations List \(CSOL\)](#) consultation. To ensure our submission accurately reflects the perspectives of members about the CSOL draft and broader migration strategy, please take 5-10 minutes to complete [this survey](#)

Member for Heathcote: April News

Includes: The Heathcote electorate was hit by significant rainfall at the start of the month, which caused major destruction - particularly in the northern Illawarra. The NSW Government lifted the waste levy fee for twelve Local Government Areas, including the Sutherland Shire and Wollongong, to bolster recovery efforts. The waiver is in place until at least 30 June 2024.

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

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Regards,

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