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# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

4th June 2024

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## **Summary**

[Gemaker May 2024: Time for a rethink on government tenders and SMEs](#)

[ANSTO Nuclear Science News May 2024](#)

[NSW Business Conditions Survey Report: Time to revive productivity](#)

[ACCC: Remote access scams costing victims tens of thousands](#)

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## **MPs Newsletters**

[Member for Hughes Jenny Ware](#)

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**[Gemaker May 2024 Time for a rethink on government tenders and SMEs](#)**

Winning a government tender can be life-changing for an Australian small business. With recent moves to [review government agency procurement](#), we have an opportunity to improve how the government can better engage with SMEs. Successful government tenders can often make or break a business and transform a small business into a medium one and, eventually, a large one to benefit countless employees and the wider Australian economy.

### **[ANSTO Nuclear Science News May 2024](#)**

Includes: Physicist recognised for her contribution to space research; Australia and US sign MoU to advance nuclear security; Australian-led patient-care project for APAC; New safety shutdown instrumentation for OPAL multi-purpose reactor; Significant progress on breakthrough cancer therapy and Transforming coffee waste into next generation batteries;

## **NSW Business Conditions Survey Report: Time to revive productivity**

The business community is currently facing a complex mix of economic challenges. Inflation is still keeping many business owners and executives up at night. While the rising cost-of-doing-business is having a direct impact on business operations, the high cost-of-living has also curbed consumer spending. [The economy has slowed markedly](#), but inflation remains stubbornly above the Reserve Bank of Australia's target band. Interest rate expectations have shifted several times in the past quarter in response to economic data releases. The uncertainty about the RBA's next move has heavily weighed on business confidence.

### **[ACCC: Remote access scams costing victims tens of thousands](#)**

Criminals who contact you unexpectedly offering to help 'fix problems' with your account, phone or computer are causing increasing financial loss through remote access scams. [Professional-sounding scammers](#) ask you to download well-known screen-sharing (or remote desktop application) software. They then use this software to steal from you. Australians reported losing \$15 million to these scams in 2023, with criminals stealing averages in the tens of thousands of dollars.

## **Green concrete recycling twice the coal ash is built to last**

New modelling reveals that [low-carbon concrete](#) developed at RMIT University can recycle double the amount of coal ash compared to current standards, halve the amount of cement required and perform exceptionally well over time. More than 1.2 billion tonnes of coal ash were produced by coal-fired power plants in 2022. In Australia, it accounts for nearly a fifth of all waste and will remain abundant for decades to come, even as the nation shifts to renewables.

### **Why are small businesses failing while corporations are thriving**

With the Christmas quarter appearing to be a false dawn, new data released this week by illion credit bureau, as part of its Commercial Risk Barometer, reveals that business conditions have deteriorated significantly in the year to March 2024. Year on year, [the failure risk](#) has risen: by more than 5% by the end of March 2024, and near 6.5% since the beginning of 2023 – the largest deterioration noted post-COVID. As a result, the number of businesses at severe risk of failing is now 80% higher than 15 months ago.

### **This week in Hughes Jenny Ware MP Jun 2024**

Includes: The Liberal have a Plan for Housing; Across our community; Local Women's Leadership Forum; Illawarra Beekeepers Association; In Parliament – Federal Government strikes deal with Greens over Fuel Efficiency

### **Member for Heathcote Maryanne Stuart May 2024 Newsletter**

Includes: Helensburgh Police Station; Friends of TAFE; New School Hall for Sutherland Public School; Coalcliff meeting; Need a Feed; Parliament Wraps Up and Have your say on future Jobs and Investment.

### **Member for Cronulla Mark Speakman eNews May 2024**

Includes: Kamay Botany Bay National Park Update; Cost of Living Help; Parliament Update; Cronulla Community Service Awards; Upcoming local events; Community recognition and Sports Awards.

## **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,*

Richard Walker, Secretary, Shirebiz  
Mobile: 0419617510  
Email: [info@shirebiz.org.au](mailto:info@shirebiz.org.au)

