



An Australian Government Initiative

AusIndustry™

Building Business, Powering Productivity



Central Coast, Hunter & North Coast

REGIONAL MANAGERS NEWS



January 2012

Message from Jo Fisher and Martin McKenzie – Central Coast, Hunter and North Coast NSW Regional Managers

Newcastle AusIndustry Announcements

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Regional Visits

For businesses or stakeholders in the Hunter, Central Coast or North Coast region who would like to meet with Jo or Martin please give us a call on the numbers above.

Assistant Regional Manager Martin McKenzie will be visiting the North Coast area from the week beginning February 6, 2012. Please contact Martin on **(02) 4015922** or **0434606779** email: martin.mckenzie@innovation.gov.au if you would like to organise a meeting.

Up coming dates and events to watch February/March

Business Development Forum 2012 Series - Pre Purchase the series of 8 Breakfast Tickets

Day/date: 8 Feb, 7 Mar, 18 Apr, 6 Jun, 11 Jul, 12 Sept, 10 Oct, 7 Nov

(7.15am for 7.30am to 8.45am) **Topic:** Various **Guest Speakers:** Various

Venue: The Pavilion, Newcastle Jockey Club, Broadmeadow

Cost: \$260 inc GST (Hunter Business Chamber members only)

RSVP: Essential. Wednesday 8 February 2012. www.hunterbusinesschamber.com.au

Topic: Skills development in the Hunter

Guest Speakers: Mr Rob Fuller, CEO of Hunter Valley Training Company, Mr Phil Cox, Institute Director of TAFE NSW – Hunter Institute & Mr Luke Simpson, Shift Electrician of Mount Thorley Warkworth, Coal & Allied

Venue: Merewether Surfhouse, Henderson Parade, Merewether

www.hunterbusinesschamber.com.au

AusIndustry Program Highlights

Program Reminders

TCF Small Business Program - Round 7 applications are invited for the Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Small Business Program (SBP). Closing date for applications is 5:00pm, 24 February 2012. please contact the TCF Small Business team - AusIndustry Hotline on 13 28 46 or email hotline@ausindustry.gov.au or contact our office.

Research & Development Tax Concession - Companies applying for registration of activities under the *R&D Tax Concession* for:

- a standard income year ending 30 June 2011 - must do so by 30 April 2012; or
- a calendar income year ending 31 December 2011 - must do so by 31 October 2012.

Contact Jo or Martin for more information 02 40145922 or 02 40145977

Clean Technology Program

The \$1.2 billion Clean Technology Program will provide support for manufacturers through three components. While a carbon price will provide incentives for these manufacturers to reduce energy consumption, the Government will also help manufacturing businesses invest in energy efficient equipment, processes and products to reduce their exposure to changing electricity prices.

- Clean Technology Investment Program
- Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program
- Clean Technology Innovation Program.

For more information you can go to

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/Industry/CleanEnergyFuture/Pages/CleanTechnologyProgram.aspx>

Register your interest

If you're interested in any of the Clean Technology Programs you can register your interest by:

[Completing our online registration form](#)

[Emailing the AusIndustry Hotline](#)

Phoning the AusIndustry Hotline on 13 28 46 or our office on 02 40 145 977 or 02 40 145 922.

Changes to Commercialisation Australia

More support for Australian innovators

Starting for the 7th of December Australian entrepreneurs will not have to repay Early Stage Commercialisation grants for businesses developing a new product, process, or service. Plus, these grants will be available to more businesses, as the annual turnover limit for applicants will rise from \$20 million to \$50 million. In addition, growing businesses that can benefit from access to skilled managers now have the option to apply for an Experienced Executives grant of up to \$350,000 - up from \$200,000.

The changes will take effect from 7 December 2011. Almost 180 innovators have already benefited from grants of \$71.7 million from Commercialisation Australia, as well as expert advice from experienced case managers, to help turn their inventions into marketable products and services.

The eligible expenditure guidelines for Early Stage Commercialisation grants will be amended to provide broader support for the development of pilot manufacturing plants and innovative manufacturing facilities.

For more information visit:

<http://www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx>



Heels in Motion!

The Women in Business Program is back in February 2012!

Around 529,000 women operate a small business nationally, which represents 32% of all Australian small businesses. Are you a business woman in the Hunter Region who wants to put those heels in motion and achieve the ultimate business success?

Be part of The Women in Business Mentoring Program which brings fundamental knowledge to achieve success together with co-operative learning and mentor guidance. Registrations are being taken for the Program commencing in February 2012.



For more information call Narelle McClelland on 4925 7700 or email via narelle@businesscentre.com.au. And visit:

<http://www.businesscentre.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=174516>



BUSINESS UPDATES

Wage Connect is an Australian Government initiative to help you reduce the costs of taking on new staff.

From January 1, 2012 you may be eligible to receive around \$5700 for each new employee, or around \$220 per week (pre-GST), to subsidise the costs of wages and training for the first six months your eligible employee is in the job. The best news is there is no waiting around for subsidy payments. They can be claimed weekly or fortnightly – whatever suits you and your business!

For more information, visit etcltd.com.au/wageconnect or go to www.deewr.gov.au/employment/programs/WageConnectSubsidy

See below for some important points to note regarding new gTLDs, and how they may affect Australian businesses.

We would like to keep our contacts up to date;

- If there are any changes to your contact details
- You wish to add someone to our contacts
- You no longer wish to receive the e-bulletin

Contact Martin on ph: 40145922 or e-mail: martin.mckenzie@innovation.gov.au or inform our Customer Channel team when they contact you.



AusIndustry is a specialist program delivery division within the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

AusIndustry delivers many business programs worth about \$2 billion each year. AusIndustry has customer service managers in more than 20 offices across Australia, including 15 regional offices.

AusIndustry has a long-standing relationship with Australian business with more than 15 years' experience in dealing with business and business issues. We value that trust.

We are a key source of information and referral over a range of business areas. We work across all levels of government and reach even the most remote areas of Australia.

Information on AusIndustry's programs is available from www.ausindustry.gov.au, the website also has terrific examples of individual companies that have used our incentives to grow their business. Or phone our hotline on 13 28 46 or email hotline@ausindustry.gov.au.

To subscribe to the AusIndustry online bulletin which is full of news and information about our customers and stakeholders visit www.ausindustry.gov.au/ausfocus. Or subscribe to 'email updates' about AusIndustry programs, visit www.ausindustry.gov.au/AboutAusIndustry/Pages/EmailUpdates.aspx

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