

REGIONAL NSW UPDATE



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST NEWSLETTER

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UNE SMART Region Incubator

Armidale, Moree, Narrabri, Tamworth

programs + events
supporting innovation
growing regional business

#FutureNENW



A great program of events to grow regional businesses – from start-ups to stand-ups

UNE SMART Region Incubator supports innovation, and offers an extensive program to enable businesses as they grow.

There is a great program of events targeting businesses at all stages of their development, including:

- **HATCH**, the UNE SRI's free flagship program for new business ideas, building confidence and supporting founders to get a business, product or service off and running; and
- **Entrepreneurs Leverage Program** - a high impact, 12-month program for founders and entrepreneurs who are focussed on growing their business.

Other great opportunities include the **2022 AgriTech Futures Series**. Sponsored by InAg.Tech with support from the NSW and Commonwealth Government, the AgriTech Futures Series will promote connections, share information and knowledge to keep building strong regional futures.

Take a look at the growing UNE SRI event program here

<https://www.unesri.com.au/events>

For more go to www.une.sri.com.au



UNE SRI Workshops

Events with Ian Mason in Moree on Tuesday February 22 and in Tamworth on February 23 and 24

Entrepreneurs Breakfast with Expert in Residence, Ian Mason
'Global Food Tech and Innovation/Exports':
Moree - Tuesday February 22 - 7am-8.30am

- Pitching to supermarkets/larger suppliers
- Distribution orders
- Access to domestic/global markets
- Export opportunities
- What's the next FMCG out of Moree?

Register: [HERE](#)

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NSW Small Business Month 2022



NSW Small Business Month is fast approaching - starting Tuesday 1st March 2022. It's time to get ready and take advantage of all the program has to offer.

If you're a small business in NSW you can now **find activities on the Small Business Month website**. From webinars to workshops, podcasts and panel

discussions, there's plenty of activities to choose from.

Become a Collaboration Partner

There's still time to partner during NSW Small Business Month - at no cost! Businesses of any size are welcome to host an activity between 1 - 31 March 2022 which aligns to the theme of Rebuild, Recharge, Renew and directly supports small businesses in NSW.

Partnering is free and it's easy to apply! Simply head to the **Small Business Month website** and **complete the online application form**.

For more information, read all about **NSW Small Business Month** on the website. You can also email smallbusiness.month@smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au or call during office hours on **02 4908 4886**.

Register a business for Stay NSW vouchers

Registration for **Stay NSW vouchers** is now open to all eligible accommodation providers with a physical location in NSW to sign up for the program.



The Stay NSW voucher program, providing every adult aged 18 and older with a \$50 voucher to spend at registered accommodation providers, will be progressively rolled out from 21 February.

Businesses that register to accept Stay NSW vouchers can also automatically accept **Parents NSW vouchers**.

Successful businesses will be listed on the accommodation finder for people with vouchers to find.

For more information and to register, visit the **Service NSW - Stay NSW webpage**.



Rent relief for COVID impacted small business continues

NSW small business owners affected by COVID-19 hardships will continue to receive **rent relief** until 13 March 2022.

Commercial and retail tenants are eligible for the rent relief if they have an annual turnover of less than \$5 million and would have met the eligibility criteria for the now discontinued JobSaver or the Micro-business Grant programs.

Small commercial and retail tenants that would have continued to qualify for JobSaver or the Micro-business Grant after 30 November 2021, will remain eligible for rent relief negotiations with their landlords.

Eligible landlords can access the **Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund**, which provides small commercial or retail landlords with a monthly grant up to the value of any rental relief provided, to a maximum of \$3,000 per month per property.

[Click here to find more on the rent relief extension.](#)

Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative

The \$10.3 million **Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative** will support our young people's recovery within their regional communities.



The resilience of children and young people has been tested over the past two years by drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19.

This program has been funded through the NSW COVID-19 Economic Recovery Initiative and the NSW and Commonwealth governments flood and storm Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

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\$1000 SafeWork small business rebate

This \$1000 rebate helps NSW small business owners purchase safety items that improve work health and safety.

You must attend an eligible SafeWork NSW event before you apply.

Before you make a purchase please **check the item is eligible**.

You may include more than one item with your claim, for example two ladders and one trolley.

If the total purchase is under \$1000 (ex GST), we'll reimburse you that amount. If the total price is over \$1000 (ex GST), we'll reimburse the first \$1000.

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Road user tolls claimable under increased \$2000 Government fee rebate

Small businesses will be able to claim road user tolls under an expanded

Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate scheme.

The maximum rebate is also being increased from \$1500 to \$2000.

Eligible small businesses who use vehicles for work can now include tolls in the list of claimable NSW and local government fees and charges.

The Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate is open to small businesses that have a total wages bill below the new 2020-21 \$1.2 million payroll tax threshold.

The rebate is available until 30 June 2022, for eligible fees and charges due and paid from 1 March 2021.

For more information and to apply, visit the **Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate** webpage.

Online program for NSW women starting or operating a small business



Women in Business provides women living or working in New South Wales with access to a fully subsidised online program to help them establish a new small business or consolidate an existing small business.

This is a fully subsidised online business training program with access to resources, events and other services.

You can find out more about eligibility and how to apply at [Women in Business](#).



Free training with the Summer Skills Program for young people

Participants need to register by 28 February 2022 and courses should be completed by 30 April 2022.

Young people (aged 16 to 24) are being encouraged to [skill up this summer](#) and support the regions with 10,000 free training places across more than 800 courses now available to study.

- Be qualified to work in booming industries - with the economy opening up, get the training you need to work in vibrant growth sectors such as hospitality, construction and agriculture.
- Learn skills that give you a competitive edge - take courses in business, information technology, hospitality and many more which will get you skills highly valued in the workplace.
- Build your resume with accreditation - learn skills for in-demand jobs, build your resume and join school leavers across NSW planning for their future.

To attend, you must be aged 16-24 and have left school. Also you must be living or working in NSW (Australian/New Zealand citizen or humanitarian visa holder).

[Find out more about the Summer Skills program.](#)

Trade Pathways for Employees

The NSW Government's **Trade Pathways Program** for the construction industry can fast track employees to a recognised qualification.



If you've already got experience working in a trade listed under the **Qualifications section** of the Program, great news! You may be able to have your skills and previous work experience recognised through the Trade Pathways Program. Simply take a skills assessment and you may be eligible for fee-free gap training. Get recognised and start training today for a career in trades tomorrow.

Applicants should be 21 or older, have at least two years' work experience in the trade they want to be qualified in, have worked in the construction industry within the last five years, and not be an apprentice.

Find out more about the Trade Pathways Program.

Inclusive facility design and innovation forums

The forums will explore how to create welcoming, inclusive and well utilised sport infrastructure environments that consider the full range of human diversity: ability, language, culture, gender, age and other difference.

Some of the topics the series of on-line forums will explore:

- Design that considers the full range of human diversity: ability, language, culture, gender, age and other differences
- Going beyond compliance and embedding inclusion into the design process
- Getting it right the first time to avoid expensive retrofitting
- Using technology to provide welcoming, inclusive environments
- Where are the gaps, what resources are needed?

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Buy Regional

Support country communities and buy direct from the producers.

Discover the delights of farm-fresh meat, hand-distilled spirits, original fashion and homeware design pieces.



Here you can find and buy special items direct, and make a difference for those most impacted by drought, bushfire and coronavirus – across rural and regional NSW.

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Jobs Plus Program

The \$250 million Jobs Plus Program will strengthen the NSW economy by creating or supporting up to 25,000 jobs to 30 June 2022.

The Jobs Plus Program is designed to support companies who want to expand their footprint in NSW. The program will reduce the cost of establishment, financial risk and increase speed to market for businesses looking to scale and grow in NSW.

It will provide private and non-government sectors seeking to invest in job-creating projects, proposals and partnerships, with support throughout the critical stages of business development.

Key elements of the program

Proponents seeking assistance through the Program will be eligible for a variety of

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A man in grey overalls and a woman in a black vest are inspecting a car's undercarriage. The man is pointing upwards with his right hand, and the woman is holding a tablet computer. They are both looking up at the car's underside.

Skills brokers can:

- For more information, [click here](#)



The NSW Government's economic roadmap has mental health as a top priority with a record \$130 million to

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Free workshops on tendering for government work

During February and March, the NSW Small Business Commission and TAFE NSW are holding free online workshops for small businesses wanting to learn how to tender for NSW Government work.



The workshop will help you gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to tender for government work and can also help businesses in tendering for private sector contracts.

To register, click on the links below.

- **Friday, 18 February @ 9am – 11am**
- **Thursday, 24 February @ 6pm - 8pm**
- **Wednesday, 9 March @ 9am - 11am**
- **Wednesday, 23 March @ 6pm - 8pm**

[Click here for more information.](#)

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