

From the SEC Crew Please read below for information about small business programs and important upcoming legislative changes. *Liz & Bev*

What's on at the SEC

"Awareness Through Movement" Feldenkrais Method classes Every Saturday at 11am. Contact Jodi 0421 318 904

Sep 20 Capital Region BEC Business Basic Seminar

Free Business Basic Seminar in Cooma – Tuesday 20 September 6pm to 9pm

This is a 3 hour seminar for those *intending* to start a small business and those *operating* a small business. The seminar will give you the knowledge to take those steps along the pathways of small business success:

Start up topics:

- The decision check list
- To start or not to start
- Steps in business start-up
- Steps in business operation

The speaker is Colin Emerson from Capital Region BEC. Book online at www.crbec.com.au or call Fran on 6297 3121.

Operating business topics:

- 2011 reality check list
- Current regional and market conditions
- Seizing the opportunities
- Money grows on

Small Business September

September is small business month in NSW. Over 300 events will run state-wide to address important issues for small firms. The Small Business September calendar of events is available at www.smallbusinessmonth.nsw.gov.au or call the SmallBiz Assist Hotline on 1300 134 359. These events include free webinars [How to use Twitter to boost your business](#) and [Ten things SMEs must know about web marketing](#).

Winning Business Online – Free online tutorials

The program has finished. However the website is still operational with tutorials ideal for small businesses who are still not online but need to be. See www.winningbusinessonline.com.au

R&D Tax Incentive

The R&D Tax Incentive applies to R&D activities and expenditure for income years commencing on or after 1 July 2011 and replaces the R&D Tax Concession. The program provides a targeted tax offset designed to support more companies to invest in R&D activity. The R&D Tax Incentive has two core components:

- a 45 per cent refundable tax offset (equivalent to a 150 per cent deduction) to eligible entities with an aggregated turnover of less than \$20 million per annum
- a non-refundable 40 per cent tax offset (equivalent to 133 per cent deduction) to all other eligible entities.

As part of the commencement of the R&D Tax Incentive, AusIndustry and the Australian Tax Office are holding public information sessions, and one will be held in Canberra on the 19 September 2011.

For more information and to register for the session see www.ausindustry.gov.au/InnovationandRandD/RandDTaxIncentive/Pages/RandDTaxIncentive.aspx or call the Innovation Australia Hotline on 13 28 46.

Warranties against defects

The Competition and Consumer Regulations 2010 on warranties against defects are due to commence on 1 January 2012. These regulations require that where a business opts to give a consumer a written warranty against defects it must comply with specific requirements. Warranty against defects documents must state:

- what you as the business (giving the warranty) must do if goods are faulty or defective – e.g. repair or replace the goods
- what the consumer must do to claim under the warranty – e.g. not misuse the goods, how to claim
- information about your business - name, business address, telephone number, email address (if any)
- the warranty period – i.e. how long the warranty lasts for
- whether you or the consumer are responsible for expenses associated with a warranty claim and how the consumer can claim back any expenses incurred
- The following mandatory text: "*Our goods come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law. You are entitled to a replacement or refund for a major failure and for compensation for any other reasonably foreseeable loss or damage. You are also entitled to have the goods repaired or replaced if the goods fail to be of acceptable quality and the failure does not amount to a major failure.*"

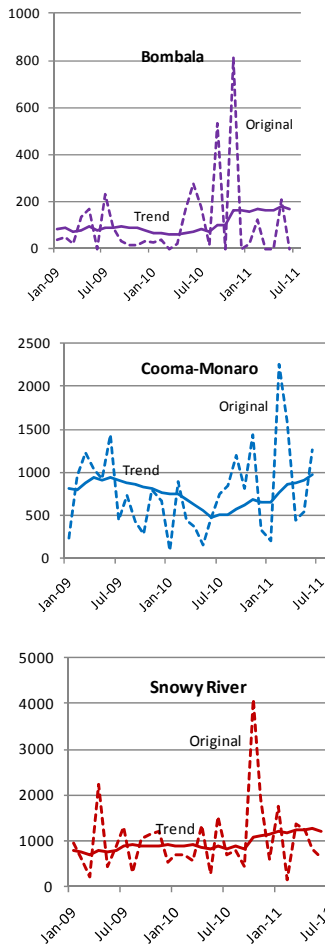
For further information see

www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/996742

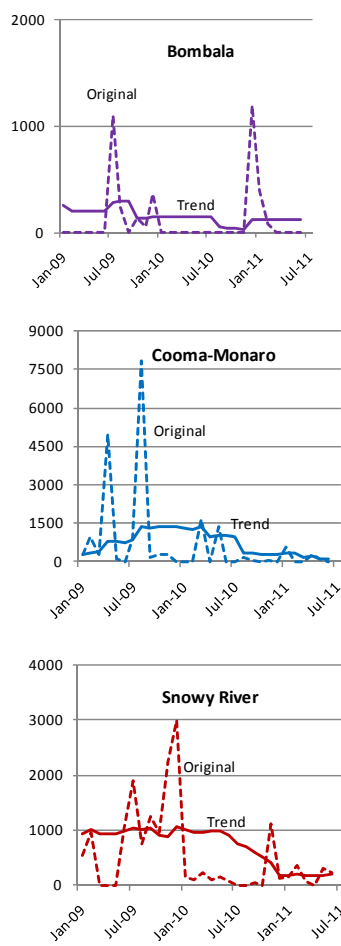
Local Dwelling approvals slowly rising

On a moving average basis residential building approvals to June 2011 are slowly trending up and non-residential building approvals are flat or falling. Graphs show building approvals for the Bombala, Snowy River and Cooma-Monaro shires. The graphs also show the strength of the boost from the Governments stimulus package to non-residential approvals in 2009.

Value of Residential Building Approvals, \$'000



Value of Non Residential Building Approvals, \$'000



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Carbon Tax

BEC Australia has prepared a document about Carbon Tax and its impact on small business. In general effect on small business is expected to be minimal as increased energy costs will be passed onto the consumer and the consumer will be compensated. For more information please see www.becaustrialia.org.au/uploads/carbontax-smallbusiness.pdf and the official website www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/submissions/clean-energy-legislative-package.aspx.

Carbon Farming Initiative

The Carbon Farming Initiative has passed through Parliament. The initiative gives farmers and landholders the certainty to invest in new approaches to reduce carbon pollution. It will enable them to receive carbon credits for reducing emissions from livestock and fertiliser use, or increasing carbon in soils or vegetation. The carbon credits generated under the initiative can be sold to companies, like those currently participating in the National Carbon Offset Standard, so they can offset carbon pollution. The Administrator for the Carbon Farming Initiative will commence operation later this year. Further information can be found online at www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi.

SNOWY ENTERPRISE CENTRE

For information or to unsubscribe contact:

38 Bombala St, Cooma
 Ph: 6452 5392 Fax: 6452 5393
 Email: info@snowybec.com.au
 Web: www.snowybec.com.au

➤ Training and meeting rooms for hire

The Snowy Enterprise Centre, centrally located in 38 Bombala Street Cooma, has an attractive training room and a smaller meeting room available for hire.

➤ Offices

An office is available for daily and short-term rent.

➤ Virtual accommodation

Use the Snowy Enterprise Centre as your business base for reception and message services and have access to the meeting room for client appointments.

➤ Business administration services

- MYOB or Phoenix data entry
- Registered BAS Agent
- Typing, editing and assembly of business documents
- Photocopying and binding
- Secretariat and administrative services for organisations

Small Business Commissioner: Giving small business a voice

Ms Yasmin King has recently commenced as NSW's first independent Small Business Commissioner to defend the rights of the State's 650,000 small businesses.

The Commissioner will provide a central point for small business operators with concerns about unfair market practices and protect the rights of small businesses by providing a simple, low-cost dispute-resolution service.

An important role of the Commissioner will be to ensure the impact on small business is fully considered by Government when introducing new regulations. For more information, contact the SmallBiz Assist hotline on 1300 134 359.