

Manufacturing

Gaining the ear of the pollies

The new Australian Innovative Systems facility has been a hot destination on the federal election campaign trail, receiving visits in May by the Federal Member for Bonner Ross Vasta and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop. Later the same week, the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull also caught up with AIS CEO Elena Gosse to discuss policy issues relevant to the industry.

When Gosse hosted the Minister for Foreign Affairs, they discussed a range of topics including the company's innovative technology, culture and local and export markets, followed by a tour of AIS's newly expanded manufacturing facilities.

The Minister was impressed that AIS exports its chlorine generators and water disinfection technology to more than 55 countries worldwide through key



Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Elena Gosse, AIS; Ross Vasta Federal Member for Bonner

products AutoChlor, Chloro-Gen, EcoLine, MineralChlor and Chrome.

Gosse says Minister Bishop also praised their long history and commitment to Australian manufacturing and ownership.

"This is particularly important at a time when so many small businesses and manufacturers are

going offshore due to the rising costs of labour and production," she says. "We are certainly bucking the trend after recently investing heavily in a new manufacturing facility with the potential to triple our production capacity and create an additional 40 jobs."

As well as economic benefits, Gosse says she believes AIS helps

Australia's reputation as a place where innovation, idea generation and quality production thrived.

"We are fortunate to have our own in-house research and development team whose primary focus is on continuous innovation to improve our existing products and create new ones. Our staff has expertise in micro-electronics, chemistry, power systems, electrical and mechanical engineering, water system design, assembly, metalworking, plumbing, administration and management. This whole of product lifecycle and dedication to excellence is what makes our business such a success."

Later in May, the Prime Minister met with Gosse and other Queensland business leaders to discuss youth employment and other job-related issues. Following the chat with Gosse and a photo op, he headed back on the campaign trail.

Safety

Labor promises national LTS program

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has promised that every Australian child will have the opportunity to develop safe water skills through the establishment of a new national water safety program, Water Safe.

Labor proposes investing \$40.9 million in the scheme to provide children the skills to confidently navigate water safety.

Currently, Australia has no national approach to swimming or water safety education. The water safety education Australian children receive depends on where they live and in some cases, on their parents' income

level. Not every Australian child is receiving the necessary instruction in swimming and water safety. In some States and Territories there is no school-delivered swimming and water safety program, while in others, swimming is an essential part of the school curriculum.

Studies have consistently shown a concerning trend in children starting secondary school without the ability to swim. One study found that three out of five children left primary school without basic swimming ability.

Research shows that Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander students are also less likely to achieve identified benchmarks for water safety competence compared to non-Indigenous students. This is also the case for children not born in Australia.

Water Safe will help ensure Aussie kids know how to have fun and stay safe around the water. The scheme will support the States and Territories to work with Government, Catholic and Independent schools, local swim schools and lifesaving clubs to ensure every student has access to a swimming and water safety program.

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Top five online news stories

The online stories that made the news over the past two months.

Crystal Lagoons bringing giant pools to Australia

Negotiations are underway with the designer of the "largest pool in the world" to bring giant lagoons to urban, regional and coastal areas across Australia.

Largest ever gathering of pool certifiers meets to discuss concerns

85 accredited pool certifiers gathered to discuss issues of concern and establish a framework for more formal networking.

Wavegarden technology behind new Urbnsurf water park in Melbourne

Perth-based Wave Park Group announced an \$18.5 million, 30-year lease in Tullamarine to build a surf park.

Now Sydney is getting an Urbnsurf water park

Hot on the heels of the Melbourne announcement, Wave Park Group announced it is in the spotlight to build Urbnsurf Sydney at Homebush.

Ian Thorpe spruiks pool cleaning business

Ian Thorpe combined his Olympic success with pool knowledge and media charm to help Optus promote their small business package.