

Managing cyber risk in your supply chain

SUCCESSION: Risk or opportunity?

In whose best interest?

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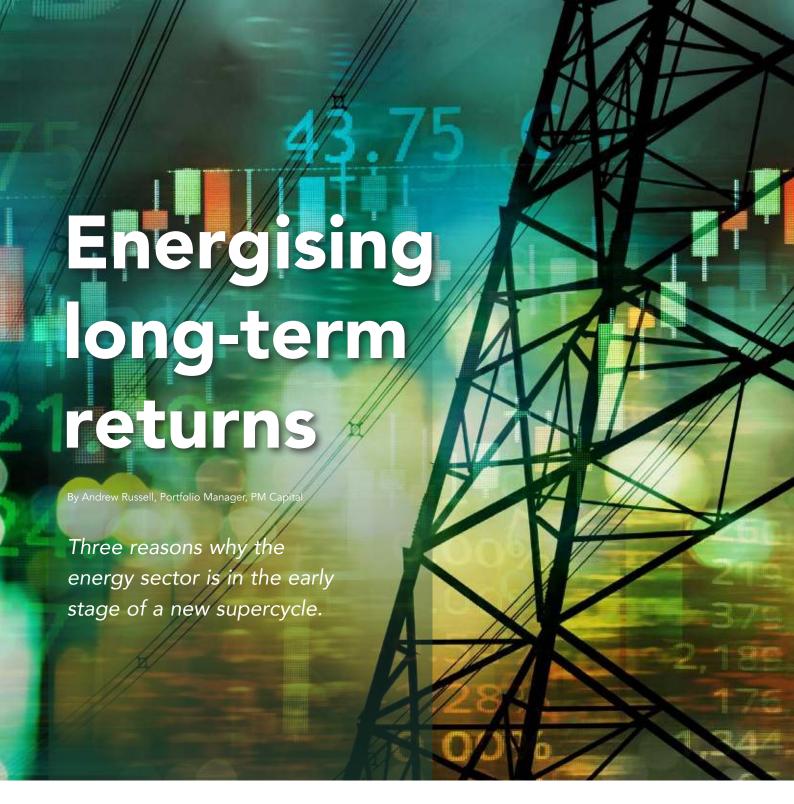
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Is it too late to buy oil and gas stocks? After underperforming for a decade¹, energy was the top-performing sector last year with a 54% return.²

A soaring oil price³ during the COVID-19 recovery boosted energy stocks. But oil has fallen 24% since March 2022.4 Rising inflation and interest rates this year have triggered fears of recession and lower oil demand.

Longer term, there are concerns that fossil-fuel stocks will underperform because of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues.

PM Capital has a different view. We believe energy stocks are in the early stage of a new supercycle this decade. A larger re-rating is likely to occur as the market reassesses growth in free cash flow and dividends from select energy companies.

By sector, energy has the secondhighest weighting in the PM Capital Global Companies Fund⁵. Key positions include Shell plc and Woodside Energy Group.

Our view is based on a long-term assessment of energy stocks. PM

Capital's process is to buy companies when they trade at bottom-quartile valuations and sell when they achieve top-quartile valuations, typically over 7-10-year cycles.

We recognise the risk of short-term volatility in energy stocks. Russia's war with Ukraine is a wild card. Heightened global tensions - economically, geopolitically and environmentally - are other challenges for energy markets.

Caveats aside, energy remains one of PM Capital's highest-conviction ideas - and a contributor to market-leading

returns⁶ from our global equity strategy. Portfolios that underweight energy will likely miss an attractive source of 'alpha' this decade.

Rare opportunity

In March 2020, PM Capital initiated a position in Shell after its shares more than halved in the first quarter that year. A massive disconnect in oil fundamentals created an opportunity to buy Shell at a bottom-quartile valuation.

Oil demand plunged when governments shuttered their economies to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. At the same time, an oil-price war erupted between Russia and Saudi Arabia – the two largest OPEC producers – when they could not agree on oil production. US oil prices briefly turned negative for the first time in history.⁷

In April 2020, the market value of Netflix, an entertainment streaming company, surpassed that of ExxonMobil, an energy 'supermajor'⁸.

The energy sector was significantly 'under-owned', even though it offered compelling value. By end-2021, the energy sector's weighting in the S&P 500 Index in the US was less than 3%. A decade earlier, the weighting was 10%.

Chart 1 below shows the fall in energy-sector valuations.

We took a mid-cycle (five-year) view of sector valuations, using a forecast price of US\$60 a barrel in our models which we viewed as the minimum, through-the-cycle breakeven price that would be supported by oil majors.

We identified a large gap between European and US-listed energy valuations. In March 2020, Shell traded on a forward Price Earnings (PE) multiple of about eight times; compared to Exxon and Chevron Corporation trading on 16-18 times, even though these companies have broadly similar assets. Shell's decision in April 2020 to slash its first-quarter dividend by more than half – its first dividend cut since World War Two¹⁰ – spooked investors and allowed PM Capital to build its position throughout 2020.

In December 2021, we initiated a position in Woodside Energy Group. Woodside, too, was undervalued relative to peers and its merger with BHP's petroleum business improved its asset optionality and growth profile.

The market agrees. Woodside's year-to-date price return is 58%.¹¹ Shell's one-year price return is 63%.¹² Although these returns impress, three factors suggest they are the start of a longer-term recovery in global energy stocks.

Supply and demand to remain tight

In 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) recommended that the global oil and gas industry stop investing in its traditional upstream businesses – and reallocate capital to renewable energy projects. That has profound implications for capital expenditure, cash flow and future supply in the energy sector.

The IEA said oil supplies will become increasingly concentrated in a small number of low-cost producers. OPEC's share of the global oil supply will grow from around 37% in recent years to 52% in 2050¹³ – a level above any point in the history of the oil market. PM Capital believes OPEC's greater control of the oil market will enable more favourable (and sustainable) oil prices for producers this decade.

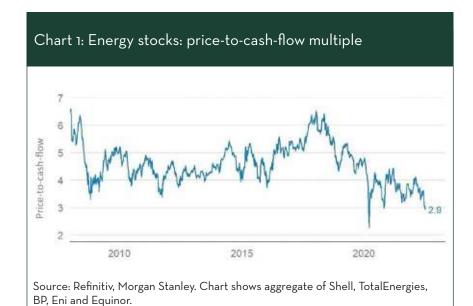
Separately, investors that use ESG filters are allocating less capital to oil and gas companies and more to those in renewable energy. Activist investors are targeting energy 'supermajors' ¹⁴ and European governments are increasing pressure on the energy sector after legal decisions that require a reduction in emissions. ¹⁵ These pressures exacerbate challenges for oil companies to maintain their reserve base and production.

As future oil supply becomes more constrained, demand should remain favourable due to population growth and because oil and gas are still by far the largest part of the global 'energy stack' and cannot be quickly replaced by renewables.

Restricted supply combined with strong demand suggests higher oil prices for longer, while shifting supply chains will likely support growth in LNG demand which bodes well for Shell and Woodside as two of the largest LNG suppliers to spot markets globally.

2. Cash flow and distributions

Unlike prior cycles where higher prices incentivised new projects and led to oversupply, capital expenditure in the sector has been mostly flat, with an increased focus on downstream and



renewables at the expense of new oil and gas fields.

Combining lower capex with higher prices, the result is record free cash flow. In the June-quarter of 2022, global energy majors Exxon, Chevron, Shell and BP all reported record profits while also keeping spending in check. This excess cash flow will be allocated to renewable-energy projects, share buybacks and higher dividends.

PM Capital expects energy companies to return more of their free cash flow to shareholders. Even if oil prices average US\$70 per barrel over the next four years, Shell should generate enough cash flow from operations to fully fund their energy transition ambitions and still generate enough free cash flow to cover half of their market capitalisation. In May 2022, Shell announced a small increase to the interim dividend of US25 cents for the first quarter, continuing a modest dividend recovery since the COVID-19 lows.

discount to their US peers because the latter are returning more cash to shareholders via buybacks and dividends, rather than boosting capital expenditure. As European energy companies follow suit, their dividends-per-share will rise and the market will further re-rate valuations as it recognises the sector's latent value in free cash flow. This is starting to occur with Shell.

3. ESG focus is shifting

The narrative about ESG investing and energy stocks is changing. Russia's invasion of Ukraine – and its implications for global energy security - has seen more European countries discuss new investments in fossil fuels. Germany, for example, is reactivating mothballed coal-fired power plants to support electricity generation.

The narrative on energy companies divesting fossil-fuel assets into standalone companies is also changing. The

For investors, energy prices, earnings and dividends growth, and company valuations matter most. On that score, the energy sector's recovery is just starting.

PM Capital is an asset manager in global and Australian equities and interest rate securities.

- ¹ S&P 500 Energy Sector Index compared to S&P 500 Index since 19 August 2012.
- The S&P 500 Energy Sector index had a total return of 54.64% in calendar-year 2021. Source: S&P Global.
- Brent Crude Oil
- ⁴ US Brent Crude was US\$127.98 a barrel on 8 March 2022. The September contract was US\$96.23 a barrel on 19 August 2022.
- ⁵ Energy had at 15% sector weighting in the fund at end-June 2022.
- ⁶ The PM Capital Global Companies Fund performed in the top quartile of global equities funds in its Morningstar peer group* for financial year 2022. Past performance is not an indicator of future performance.
- The price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate fell as low as minus \$37.63 a barrel in March 2020.
- ⁸ Patridge, J. "Netflix is now worth more than ExxonMobil." The Guardian. 17 April
- Source: Siblis Research 31 December
- ¹⁰ Reuters, "Shell cuts dividend for first time since World War Two'. April 30, 2020
- ¹¹ To 24 August 2022 (excludes dividends)
- ¹² To 23 August 2022 (excludes dividends)
- ¹³ Ibid. Press release to accompany IEA report. 18 May 2021.
- ¹⁴ In June 2021, Engine No. 1, a small US hedge fund that was supported by giant index funds, successfully waged a battle to install three directors on ExxonMobil's board.
- ¹⁵ In May 2021, the Hague District Court in The Netherlands ordered Shell to reduce its worldwide carbon-dioxide emissions by 45% to 2030 (compared to 2019 levels)

"

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Shell's dividend recovery has much further to run. Its latest dividend of US25 cents compares to a US47 cent dividend in the first quarter of 2019. Moreover, in July 2022 Shell announced a US\$6 billion share buyback for the Septemberquarter to reduce its issued share capital. This means Shell will be in the market buying approximately 20% of their daily traded volume.

PM Capital believes European energy stocks still trade at a significant market has recognised that responsible depletion of fossil-fuel assets is best done through high-quality energy companies rather than by transferring ownership to lower-quality companies that buy these assets and try to maximise their value through higher production.

PM Capital expects sentiment towards energy stocks will continue to improve this decade as markets reassess fossil-fuel production in the context of energy-security risks and rolling blackouts in Europe.

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Managing cyber risk in your supply chain



Organisations that operate in Australia's financial markets sector are becoming increasingly interconnected and interdependent – leaving them more vulnerable than ever to cyber attacks through their supply chain.







To better understand the challenges faced by organisations, ASIC held nine roundtables with seven different industry groups, professional associations and their members. We asked participants how they identified, managed, and mitigated cyber-related risk with their suppliers.

Industry spoke – and we listened.

Managing cyber risk in supply chains is complex. Organisations need to identify risks relevant to their business and clearly define their risk appetite. This is essential to ensuring your cyber risk management framework is appropriate

to the nature, scale and complexity to your business.

Regardless of your organisation's size or sector, we encourage you to consider whether the common themes we identified are accounted for in your risk frameworks.

Finding your weakest link isn't always easy

Most organisations were aware they were only as strong as the weakest link in their supply chain. However, they often faced challenges obtaining visibility of their suppliers' operations.

To help increase transparency and mitigate fourth-party risk, many organisations used contract terms. For example, by requiring suppliers to notify the organisation if their subcontractors or vendors experienced a cyber security event.

In some cases, organisations felt they had limited bargaining power when negotiating contracts with established larger third-party suppliers. This was common in sectors that relied on a small number of vendors.

Innovation and cyber security can coexist

For most organisations, cyber security did not mean sacrificing innovation. Instead, it highlighted the need for robust risk management practices with vendors.

Organisations effectively leveraged innovation by:

- looking at cyber risk through an enterprise lens (e.g. by outsourcing in accordance with established risk appetite statements)
- conducting periodic risk-based testing of their suppliers cyber security (e.g. through scenario testing, and risk-based vendor assessment and testing).

People matter

Many organisations recognised their people were their greatest defence against supply chain cyber risk.

Organisations that fostered close collaborative relationships with suppliers, rather than solely relying on contract terms, obtained more timely threat intelligence. Similarly, organisations that sought to empower staff to actively consider cyber risk – for example, through training and awareness or by integrating cyber expertise within the business – helped minimise exposure to cyber threats.

We need to speak the same language

Management of cyber security risk is not a matter limited to IT departments – or suppliers of IT services.

Organisations that tackled the initial 'barrier of ignorance' and prioritised cyber literacy were better placed to identify, manage, and mitigate cyber supply chain risk.

The right information at the right time

To make informed decisions, decisionmakers need access to the right information at the right time.

While many decision-makers actively sought opportunities to uplift their own capabilities, reports were often too complex or jargon-heavy. This

made it difficult for decision-makers to understand the cyber risks facing their organisation.

Independent audits or assessments of your organisation's cyber resilience can help decision-makers make informed cyber risk decisions. While having board members and/or senior management with information technology competency changes the nature of the conversations around cyber security.

Need more information?

We recognise challenges within the supply chain vary, and solutions must be tailored to the nature, scale, and complexity of each business. For more guidance on managing your organisation's cyber supply chain risk, visit the Australian Cyber Security Centre website.

ASIC has previously engaged with firms on their cyber resilience preparedness through three self-assessment cycles. Our report on the latest self-assessment includes our analysis of supply chain risk among surveyed firms.





This year the ASF are putting on a musical-themed awards night in support of all their charities that use music therapy and incorporate music as part of their healing process.

When?

Wednesday 21 Sept, 6pm

Where?

Sofitel Wentworth Sydney 61/101 Phillip St, Sydney NSW



SUCCESSION: Risk or opportunity?



Industry crisis

Practice succession is at the forefront of many advisers' minds as they deal with the consequences that the Professional Standards for Financial Advisers will have on their future plans.

Since 2019 there have been more than 10,000 departures in three short years and industry insiders estimate there could be a further exodus of up to 5,000 advisers plateauing at 12,000 by 2026¹, while demand for advice will continue to rise.

Every practice is grappling with change and there is an urgent need to address succession planning. Advisers leaving the industry need to manage their exit and Professional Year candidates need to understand what they are

moving into. Securing practice succession is directly correlated to delivering ongoing and consistent client advice outcomes.

The education gap

Business valuations are an integral component of any succession planning process and can make or break a deal. But Bstar's research confirms there is an education gap in how business valuation is related to improvement and succession planning.

88% of SME owners have a 'value gap risk' as their business value is not enough to meet their needs. Their key challenge is to grow value before sale or exit.

Key valuation elements that are often not well understood include:

- the difference between Personal vs Business goodwill.
- what is being valued is it the client base, the business, or the entity's net tangible assets?
- does the valuation process assess non-financial performance indicators?
- whether industry benchmarks are available to validate key assumptions and independence.

What are leading advice practices doing to resolve their succession issues?

Firstly, they are optimising practice value by implementing a range of industryspecific and customised 'Profit and Value Driver' strategies to maximise profits and improve cash flow. These include:

- 1. automating client services
- adopting a three-step 'Employer of Choice' process
- utilising innovative education and planning solutions to attain benchmark performance.

Bstar's Industry Benchmarks confirm there is a vast difference between average and top performance:

- Profit margins 23.5% (average); 36.1% (top)
- Valuation multiples 4.28 (average);
 5.31 (top).

Secondly, they understand how to take control through a new DIY, online education course that helps to:

- develop a business plan to achieve financial independence
- understand the true value of their practice

- identify profit and cash flow improvement opportunities
- create a framework to address and resolve their succession needs.

Advisers who complete the online course are eligible for two CPD hours.

Future proof YOUR practice

Take the first step and complete the course. This will help you to future proof YOUR practice for the benefit of both you and your clients.

SIAA is pleased to partner with Bstar and offer a **free online Business Valuation, Improvement & Succession Planning Course**to industry participants.

Visit www.stockbrokers.org.au/membership/free-business-valuation-course to watch an introductory video or register to do the online Course.



¹ Adviser Ratings, March 2022, https://www.adviserratings.com.au/news/one-big-change-could-halt-the-mass-adviser-exodus/. Adviser Ratings data also suggests that the reprieve of the experience pathway, to which the government has committed, could allow these advisers, who might otherwise quit or retire from the industry, to stay.



An excellent refresher for experienced staff and perfect for those in auxiliary roles (eg legal, IT, HR and other supporting roles associated with stockbroking), this workshop delves deep into the day of a life of a trade. You will walk away with a solid understanding of client onboarding processes, the process of share and derivative trades from order placement through to execution to settlement, sponsorship/HINS, CHESS messaging, registries and more.



ROB TALEVSKI joined Webull Securities, a Fintech empowering individuals to become life-long investors, as its CEO in November 2021. Prior to this he was the Responsible Manager who led the trade execution business of Australian Investment Exchange (AUSIEX), a multifaceted business responsible for the execution and management of all listed security products across ASX and CHI-X. With over 18 years' experience across retail, wholesale and institutional channels Rob will provide great insight into a day in the life of a trade.

Dates & Times

Tuesday 18 October, 11.00 – 1.15pm AEDT (includes 15 min break)

Professional Standards CPD Area

Regulatory compliance and consumer protection 1.0 hour

Technical competence 1.0 hour ASIC Knowledge Area: Generic knowledge 2.0 hours

Cost

Practitioner Members \$100 Organisation Members \$150 Non-members \$200 Register four or more (Organisation Member or Non-member) by Tuesday 4 October to receive a \$50pp discount. Registration includes handouts and a quiz to consolidate learning outcomes.

To access this rate please call 02 8080 3200 or email education@stockbrokers.org.au.

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Scholarship recipients have three (3) months to complete either course unless when enrolling in both where twelve (12) months time is provided.

If claiming Professional Standards CPD, both courses provide 20 Professional Standards CPD hours, the breakdown as follows: Technical competence 10 hours | Regulatory compliance and consumer protection 5 hours | General 5 hours.

Each Scholarship is valued up to \$400 and covers the full cost of the ADA 1 or ADA 2 enrolment plus a complimentary one hour training session.

Apply for a ASX / SIAA Scholarship

This article is general information only.





Market manipulation and other prohibited conduct Tuesday 11 October | 11.00 - 1.15pm



This workshop on the prohibition on creating or maintaining an artificial price for trading in various financial products, including shares and futures, will benefit all who wish to gain an understanding of markets and the consequences of breaching obligations. Designed to suit the needs of financial market professionals from the front and back office, this is a great opportunity to brush up on your obligations, learn how to protect yourself and understand the difference between manipulation and ordinary market forces.

3

PROFESSOR MICHAEL ADAMS is a specialist in Australian corporate law and international corporate governance. Michael has expertise in financial services regulation, information governance, consumer protection and the broader area of legal technology and education. Professor Adams was Dean of Law at Western Sydney Law School from 2007 to 2017 and from 2019 the Head of the University of New England Law School.

Dates & Times (incl 15 min break)

Tues 11 October, 11.00 – 1.15pm AEDT

Professional Standards CPD Area

Regulatory compliance and consumer protection 1.0 hour

Professionalism and ethics 1.0 hour

Cost

Practitioner Members	\$100
Organisation Members	\$150
Non-members	\$200

Register four or more (Organisation Member or Non-member) by Tuesday 27 September to receive a \$50pp discount. Registration includes handouts and a quiz to consolidate learning outcomes. To access this rate please call 02 8080 3200 or email education@stockbrokers.org.au.

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Delivering the big issues in stockbroking and investment advice, insights from industry experts and updates from the advocacy team.





By Jason Spits, Senior Journalist, selfmanagedsuper

After every change in government, the incoming party is often keen to tell the public how little its predecessor did and how poorly they did it, and this has certainly been the case with the Albanese government.

Headline-grabbing issues such as climate change and foreign policy have taken a different tack with new ministers keen to distance themselves, their policies and party from the actions and ideology of the previous incumbents.

The same is taking place with superannuation and while it may not be front-page news, the shift is as significant as any of the new policy directions we see coming from Canberra and is being led by two voices that appear to have a far more expansionist view of what represents 'best interests' in super.

The first is Treasurer Jim Chalmers who, on 22 August, spoke to a gathering of large superannuation funds and major banks about the new government's agenda for the sector.

In that speech, Chalmers said the government wanted to legislate an objective for superannuation, fix noncompliance with the super guarantee so workers are paid what they have earned and address gender disparities in retirement balances.

He committed the government to not messing with the sole purpose of superannuation – which is to be used only for the generation of retirement benefits for members – and to retain the preservation of funds until retirement age.

All these are good things and will benefit superannuation fund members, but into that mix Chalmers added the following: "We also see trillions of dollars in workers' capital, government budgets heaving with debt and obvious needs for investment in areas like housing and energy."

It was a theme he touched on earlier in his speech when he said superannuation represented "trillions of dollars looking for a home" and was the "hope of the side when it comes to building national savings for the masses, when it comes to investing in our national priorities, when it comes to projecting our influence in the region".

He then spent a good part of his speech spit-balling ideas about how superannuation could be used to finance the transition to renewable energy and dealing with the shortage and affordability of housing. He also asked his audience of big funds and big banks to provide input into these uses of superannuation.

These ideas were first flagged by the second voice, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Services Minister Stephen Jones, who Chalmers acknowledged does much of the work on superannuation. That is clear from a speech he gave to financial services media in January while still opposition financial services and superannuation spokesman.

During that speech, Jones criticised suggestions by some in the former government to allow the use of superannuation to help individuals buy their first home, but that idea appears now to have merit if carried out by the larger end of the sector.

He also laid the groundwork for Chalmers' speech and the government's plans for a new partnership with superannuation when he said funds could be deployed in the interests of the members who own them, but also in the national interest, and the

government had a role to play as a facilitator of large-scale deals.

"There is an important role in government working with industry to create investment opportunities, not with taxpayers' money, and ensuring that the national interests and the interests of the owners can be married and deployed to the better interest of everyone," Jones said.

This may indeed be possible. The big bags of money in superannuation need places to go to continue to grow retirement benefits for members, but is this conflation of the best interest of members with Labor's view of the national interest just a roundabout way of tapping super funds on the shoulder for a contribution to government coffers?

Adding or raising taxes in super would illicit howls of protest from the funds, their members and the media, but co-opting some of the largest pools of money in Australia to help fix problems that belong to the government is much more subtle and potentially more risky.

Large-scale infrastructure and unlisted asset deals have not always worked out well for the larger end of the superannuation sector, not that most people would know, unless they trawl through each fund's annual report every year.

Don't worry though, Chalmers said the government won't be directing superannuation funds into asset classes, despite Jones being keen on seeing more deal flows in the infrastructure sector.

And as for the 'best financial interests duty' introduced by the former government to ensure super funds act only in the best interests of their members, while exposing the questionable marketing, sponsorship and investment arrangements of the past – that's under review already.

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- **Tower Limited (TWR)**
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SIAA-ACCREDITED CPD webinars

Stay on top of your CPD with these SIAA-accredited CPD webinars – FREE for Practitioner, Affiliate and employees of Principal Members.





Grant Bloxham

Maximise profit and optimise your business value I wed 14 September I 1.00 to 1.45pm AEST

Industry profitability and valuation benchmarking data indicates there are vast differences between average and top performance. By attending this 'profit and value driver' webinar you will be introduced to a succession planning guide and online course to help you address and resolve advice practice succession issues.

Professional Standards CPD: 0.75 Client care and practice | ASIC RG146: 0.75 Generic Knowledge

How margin lending supports wealth creation | Wed 28 September | 1.00 to 2.00pm AEST

Even in today's financial environment not all debt is bad. James Winder from Leveraged will outline the rules for prudent wealth creation, what to be careful of and the potential for amplified returns available to investors with an appropriate time horizon and clear strategy.



James Winder

Professional Standards CPD: 1.0 Technical competence | RG146: 1.00 Generic knowledge



Frances Russell

The 'Essential Eight' – keys to protecting your business | Wed 12 October | 1.00 to 2.00pm AEST

Frances Russell, a leading Australian Managed Service and Security Provider, will outline what the 'Essential Eight' are and why businesses are being urged to implement them. The 'Essential Eight' are a key tool for understanding how a business can describe where they are at, and where they should aim to be.

Professional Standards CPD: 1.0 Regulatory compliance and consumer protection | RG146: 1.00 Generic knowledge

Unconscious bias | Wed 26 October | 1.00 to 2.00pm AEST

Having worked in financial services for over 25 years, Angela Godfrey, an expert HR professional, will discuss how unconscious bias impacts the attraction of women into the stockbroking industry. She will identify how to deal with unconscious bias and possible solutions for attracting women into the industry.



Angela Godfrey

Professional Standards CPD: 1.0 Professionalism and ethics | RG146: 1.00 Generic knowledge

Practitioner & Organisation Members: FREE | Non-Members: \$55.00

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