

MEDIA RELEASE

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Urban Taskforce thanks Simon Draper and welcomes Michael Coutts-Trotter

Simon Draper's contribution to the reform and facilitation of housing in New South Wales was valuable and will be missed, according to Acting Urban Taskforce Australia CEO, Paul Waterhouse.

The announcement by Premier Chris Minns that Mr Draper will be leaving his position as Secretary of the NSW Premier's Department on 4 September, is a loss to the State and a gain for Canberra.

His experience both in government and in the private sector gave him an understanding of the challenges facing the development sector and the delivery of housing, enabling changes that have made a real difference.

He was brought on to increase housing supply and affordability and, in his time as Secretary of the Department, he has led some of the NSW Government's key reform initiatives. As the Chair of the Housing Delivery Authority in particular, Mr Draper has overseen the transformation of development approval, recognising that feasibility and higher density are needed if more housing is to be delivered.

We congratulate Mr Draper on his appointment as Secretary of the Federal Department of Industry, Science, and Resources and wish him well in the new role.

Michael Coutts-Trotter's appointment as Acting Secretary of the NSW Premier's Department in Mr Draper's place is a welcome and positive move.

Industry knows Mr Coutts-Trotter well. He is a public servant of extensive experience and has dealt with a number of important issues affecting the delivery of housing supply in his current and former positions.

As a former head of the Premier's Department, Mr Coutts-Trotter comes back to the role with a good understanding both of the housing supply crisis and of the workings of the NSW Government.

Urban Taskforce thanks Mr Draper for his valuable contribution and welcomes Mr Coutts-Trotter to his new role.

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*The comments and analysis above can be attributed to **Paul Waterhouse**, Acting CEO, Urban Taskforce.*

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*The **Urban Taskforce Australia** is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.*