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Government appoints Mark Paterson AO to head the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services

Today the Government has announced that it will be appointing Mr Mark Paterson AO as the new Director-General of the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services. Mark is currently Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, a position he has held since late 2007.

Mark will take up his appointment in NSW within the next 3–4 weeks.

I will take up the role of Director-General Department Primary Industries, but in the interim and until Mark commences, will continue to undertake both DG roles.

Mark comes to this new position with considerable experience, both inside and outside the public sector. Prior to his present position Mark was Secretary of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources from 2002 to 2007. Outside Government Mark has held a number of prominent positions including the Chief Executive roles of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Retailers Council of Australia and the Retail Traders Association of NSW. Mark is currently on the Board of CSIRO, and has formerly held Board positions with AusTrade, the Australian Tourism Commission and the Australian Export Finance Insurance Commission.

With his obvious enthusiasm and commitment to achieve Mark will bring a new approach to leading and managing the complex mix of DTIRIS with its wide-ranging portfolio of responsibilities and industry and stakeholder interests.

On behalf of all the staff across DTIRIS I want to welcome Mark Paterson to DTIRIS, and to NSW, and look forward to working with him across DTIRIS to implement the Government's reform program.

**RICHARD SHELDRAKE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner's media release is attached

DR RICHARD SHELDRAKE TO TAKE ON VITAL ROLE AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Dr Richard Sheldrake will lead the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson announced today.

“Richard Sheldrake is a fine man and an excellent public servant, and I am pleased he has agreed to take on the enhanced role of Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries,” Mr Stoner said.

“I look forward to his continued leadership in the NSW public service.

“He is the right man to take on this expanded role under the new O’Farrell/Stoner Government, providing guidance in the important areas of agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, forests and natural resources.”

Katrina Hodgkinson said the appointment of Dr Sheldrake bolsters the Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Government’s commitment to rural and regional NSW.

“This is further proof that the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government is about action when it comes to building a bright future for the Department of Primary Industries,” Minister Hodgkinson said.

“Our move to reinstate the Department of Primary Industries has been welcomed from one end of NSW to the other and now we have a high calibre Director-General to head up the Department.

“Since becoming Minister for Primary Industries, I have been impressed by Richard’s passion and professionalism and I am very pleased the Deputy Premier has asked him to head up my Department.

“Richard is widely respected by both sides of Parliament, the public service and also by the State’s primary industries sector.

“I congratulate Richard on his appointment and I look forward to working with him on the issues and opportunities facing our \$9 billion primary industries sector.”

Dr Sheldrake has been part of the NSW public sector’s senior executive service since 1993, and has been Director-General of a number of NSW departments since 2002.

Dr Sheldrake’s passion for this area has seen him hold many positions including Commissioner of the Murray Darling Basin Commission, NSW Commissioner for Soil Conservation, Director of the Pig Research and Development Corporation, Director of Animal Health Australia Limited, Chair of the Primary Industries Health Committee, and he is currently Commissioner for Forests.