

MEDIA RELEASE

Presiding Officer appointed

23 July 2020

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), which is a whole-of-industry led organisation that provides support to attract, train and retain South Australian building and construction workers, announces the appointment of Maree Wauchope as its Presiding Officer.

Ms Wauchope succeeds Peter Kennedy, who served as Presiding Officer since November 2018, before stepping down from the role in May 2020.

Ms Wauchope, a senior executive with extensive experience on major infrastructure projects, will preside today over the first meeting of a refreshed board. She has been involved in the construction industry for 20 years, both in government helping deliver major projects, and in the private sector managing civil and building works.

The current board includes Sarah Constructions general manager Anthony Carbone, former SA secretary of the CFMEU Aaron Cartledge, commercial development and planning expert Amanda Price-McGregor, Property Council SA executive director Daniel Gannon, Master Builders Association SA chief executive Ian Markos, accountant Nicholas Handley, Curran Risk Management director Patrick Curran, Hickinbotham Design director Ruth Vagnarelli, SA Housing Industry Association regional director Stephen Knight, and Civil Contractors Federation SA director Victoria Griffith.

Ms Wauchope, who in March was recruited as the Barunga West Council's new chief executive officer, was appointed to lead the CITB following an expression of interest process in April. Her decades of experience in the public and private sectors will bring to CITB a strong focus on good corporate governance. She will help the construction sector navigate its way through the COVID-19 pandemic. The CITB has allocated a record \$15 million to support the training of apprentices and trainees this financial year.

"A priority will be to work with training organisations to ensure the full breadth of construction training, particularly for apprentices and trainees, continues," Ms Wauchope said. "Government and industry expect the CITB to invest what money it has in the most effective way to ensure the industry receives what it needs right now to recover as quickly as possible.

"We will prioritise funding for immediate skills and training activities, and support for apprentices and trainees. As the construction industry undergoes significant challenges, SA needs the CITB now more than ever."

Skills Minister David Pisoni said Ms Wauchope will also bring a vital regional focus to the CITB.

"Maree is a passionate regional advocate who has provided representation within the highest levels of government, while her strong skills in stakeholder communication and engagement will assist the CITB's response to economic challenges facing the construction sector," Mr Pisoni said.

- The CITB has facilitated more than 500,000 short courses for construction workers and provided more than 65,000 support payments for employers to help train apprentices.
- More than 10,000 secondary school students have participated in the CITB's construction industry pathway program, with over 3000 taking up apprenticeships.

For further information please contact Maree Wauchope on 0434 604 756.

