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## Media Release

### **New IIC Australia committee to reignite and lead communications policy discussion**

In light of the ever changing communications landscape the new committee of the Australian Chapter of the International Institute of Communications (IICA) plans to reinvigorate in Australia and regionally global media, telecommunications and technology policy discussion and debate through a series of focused events and projects.

The new committee comprises:

- **President** | Dr Derek Wilding, Co-Director of the interdisciplinary Centre for Media Transition at UTS
- **Co Vice-President** | Sophie Kowald, Policy Adviser to the Shadow Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland MP
- **Co Vice-President** | Michael Coonan, Head of Regulatory Affairs SBS
- **Treasurer** | Debra Richards, CEO Ausfilm and Director of IIC
- **Secretary** | Joanne Ryan, Managing Director, Infodec Communications

The new committee will work in close collaboration with IIC President and former head of the ACMA, Chris Chapman, as well as the other IIC Chapters located in the Middle East, Europe, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

“I’m thrilled that we have a new generation of leaders in the Australian communications policy space to take the lead and re-invigorate discussion and debate about global policy issues and how they might play out and be ‘operationalised’ locally and regionally”, IIC President Chris Chapman said.

New President, Derek Wilding, believes that the IICA will very usefully add to this dialogue and draw on the knowledge and expertise of the wider IIC membership which includes major global corporations like Google, AT&T, Vodafone, Comcast Universal, Facebook, Liberty Global, Nokia, Cisco and Netflix.



“I am looking forward to not only raising awareness of developments that may have synergies with the Australian marketplace, but also developing a series of events and projects that add to discussion and debate in the domestic context.

While the Australian industry is generally reasonably served by policy debate about local issues, I am confident that the IIC’s global approach to independent policy development and discussion will be welcomed by those working across our sector here in Australia”, Derek Wilding said

The new committee will be supported by a “brains trust” of communications policy experts from some of Australia’s major media and telecommunications corporations, academics and legal experts.

## **About the International Institute of Communications**

Established in 1969, the IIC is recognised as the world’s leading independent, global, not for profit policy forum for the converging telecoms, media and technology industries.

Membership offers a discussion framework and professional network for senior level strategists working at the intersection of business and public policy across the whole of the digital ecosystem.

The IIC provides a neutral trusted platform through which controversial topics can be explored and the policy agenda can be facilitated without fear or favour.

Benefits of joining the IIC include access to news and information about national and international policy and regulatory issues, as well as free attendance at conferences and forums.

The IIC’s International office is in London, with chapters in Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and the US.

Each year there are a range of conferences and fora held around the world, with the IIC’s Annual Conference and International Regulators Forum being held next month in Brussels.

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