



THE NETWORK OF INFLUENCE

Geoff Chambers and **Simon Benson** reveal the trusted business experts and policy advisers helping Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg to shape the economic landscape of Australia

ROD SIMS

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission chair
Started role: August 2011
Remuneration: \$775,910

Before becoming ACCC chair, Sims was chair of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW. He previously led the NSW Rail Infrastructure Corporation and State Rail Authority and was Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet deputy secretary in the late 1980s and early 90s. Sims, a former Department of Transport and Communications deputy secretary, also served as an economic adviser to Bob Hawke.

Analysis: Sims is on track to be the nation's longest-serving ACCC chair after his initial five-year term was extended in 2016 and again in 2018, taking him through to mid-2022. Respected by both sides of politics and considered one of the sharpest minds in the nation. Successful Coalition governments have turned to him to solve some of Australia's most challenging issues, headlined by his work on energy policy.

PHILIP LOWE

Reserve Bank of Australia governor
Started role: Sept 2016
Remuneration: \$1,059,761

Appointed RBA governor in 2016, Lowe's term is scheduled to end in 2023. He is chair of the Reserve Bank board, Pay-

STEVE KNOTT

Australian Mines & Metals Association

Knott has led the

AMMA since 1997. He is a member of the National Workplace Relations Consultative Committee, International Labour Advisory Council and Ministerial Advisory Committee on Skilled Migration. Before joining AMMA, he held senior roles at Tasmania's Hydro Electric Commission.

TIM REED

Business Council of Australia president

ments System board and Council of Financial Regulators, and also sits on the Financial Stability board. Prior to becoming governor, he was deputy governor and assistant governor for economic and financial system. He also spent two years at the Bank for International Settlements.

Analysis: Overseeing record low interest rates in an attempt to stimulate the economy, Lowe is one of the most influential economic figures in the nation, whose every speech is dissected by banks, economists, business leaders and mortgage holders. Lowe has been at odds with the government in recent months after backing further stimulus and spending on infrastructure, and warning of limits to what monetary policy can achieve.

MICHAEL BRENNAN

Productivity Commission chair
Started role: September 2018
Remuneration: \$609,640

Brennan is a former senior adviser to Nick Minchin and was most recently Treasury deputy secretary, fiscal group. He previously worked as deputy secretary, economic, at the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance. He has also worked as an associate director in economics and policy practice at

PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Analysis: Appointed by Scott Morrison when he was treasurer in July last year, Brennan is considered one of the new guard leading economic reform in Canberra. He began a five-year term after the departure of Peter Harris. Brennan worked with Morrison during his time at Treasury as deputy sec-

The BCA, frozen out by Morrison over a perception it had banked on a Labor victory and was slow to campaign for company tax cuts, is back in favour under new president Tim Reed, also a friend of Morrison. Reed, founding member of the Internet Advertising Board, is a former MYOB chief executive who worked in Silicon Valley. He was appointed BCA president in November.

DENITA WAWN

Master Builders Australia CEO

The MBA is very much in favour with the government, having campaigned effectively against Labor's negative gearing policies. Wawn

retary, fiscal group. At Treasury, Brennan had responsibility for budget policy, retirement incomes, commonwealth-state relations, infrastructure and social policy financing. Josh Frydenberg has leant heavily on him.

DAVID IRVINE

Foreign Investment Review Board chair
Started role: April, 2017
Remuneration: \$110,860

Irvine is a former ambassador to China, and high commissioner to PNG from 1996-2003. He became the only person to have served as the head of Australia's foreign intelligence and domestic security agencies, roles he held for almost



12 years. Since stepping away from the public service, Irvine has chaired the Cyber Security Research Centre.

Analysis: Initially appointed to FIRB in late 2015, Irvine was tapped by Morrison in 2017 to fill one of the nation's most strategic roles, straddling the economic, security and political spectrums. He is an accomplished diplomat and security chief, with decades of experience, including as ambassador to China, and viewed by Morrison and Frydenberg as crucial to making the right decisions on foreign investment. Minchin has joined him at FIRB after Frydenberg appointed the former finance minister.

JAMES SHIPTON

Australian Securities & Investments Commission chair

Started role: February 2018

Remuneration: \$775,910

has emerged as a key player in Canberra after becoming chief executive in 2017. A veteran industry advocate, she was previously Brewers Association of Australia and New Zealand CEO, deputy CEO of the National Farmers Federation and executive director of the Australian Hotels Association.

BRIAN LOUGHNANE

Former Liberal Party federal director

Having directed election campaigns for John Howard and Tony Abbott, he is still regarded as one of the sharpest political minds in the Liberal Party. He is consulted by ministers, senior staff and party

Shipton is a former Goldman Sachs Asia-Pacific chief who came to ASIC after 20-plus years working in regulation, financial markets, the law and academia. He previously worked as executive director of Harvard Law School's Program on International Financial Systems. Prior to that he was an executive director and commission member of the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong. Shipton spent almost a dec-

ade at Goldman Sachs in Hong Kong, including as managing director across the securities division and Asia-Pacific office.

Analysis: Selected by the Turnbull government, Shipton has been tasked with reforming an organisation that has failed to live up to public expectations in recent years. Works closely with Frydenberg.

KAREN CHESTER

Australian Securities & Investments Commission deputy chair

Started role: January 2019

Remuneration: \$620,730

Chester is a former deputy chair of the Productivity Commission. She previously worked as a partner and global head of infrastructure at Mercer. Before joining Mercer, Chester was a partner at Access Capital Advisers and chief executive of Access Economics. Has previously worked in the public service, including senior economic policy roles at Treasury and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Analysis: Appointed by Frydenberg in December last year after a

officials after officially stepping away from politics in 2015 following 12 years as federal director.

PAULEVERINGHAM

Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia CEO

He joined in mid-2018 as CEO after running Marketforce Australia and GRA Everingham Advisory. He is a former WA Liberal state director and senior adviser for the commonwealth Treasury.

PREMIER STATE

Headed by Michael Photios

A moderate factional chief in NSW, the lobbyist firm has ben-

successful three-year stint as deputy chair at the Productivity Commission, where she was known for her ability to provide clear advice on economic reform. Was installed at the nation's top

corporate regulator to implement tougher enforcement and a focus on competition and consumer outcomes.

PETER COSTELLO

Former treasurer, Future Fund board of guardians chair, Nine chair

Costello was a close private adviser to Morrison when he became treasurer and has become more influential with the elevation of fellow Victorian Frydenberg as Treasurer. He was reappointed to a new five-year term as chair of the Future Fund board of guardians in February. Costello, whose long-time chief of staff, Phil Gaetjens, is now Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet secretary, was appointed chair of Nine in 2016.

MARTIN CODINA

Frydenberg chief of staff

Codina linked with the Treasurer in 2015, acting as chief of staff for Frydenberg when he was assistant treasurer and minister for resources, energy and northern Australia. After Frydenberg became Treasurer last year, he returned to the fold following stints with BT Financial Group, where he had been head of government and industry affairs. Codina previously worked at the Financial Services Council and as an adviser with the commonwealth Treasury.

etted from having Liberal governments in NSW and Canberra. Photios remains a key factional powerbroker inside the party, but Morrison keeps him at arm's length. The former NSW minister is close with Marise Payne.

CROSBY TEXTOR

Founded by Sir Lynton Crosby and Mark Textor.

The traditional polling company of the Liberal Party is an influential player in conservative politics. CT, which has expanded into the US, Britain and Asia, has been a breeding ground for Liberal strategists, pollsters and advisers for many years.



KEY INDUSTRY CHIEFS/LOBBYISTS



Steve Knott, Tim Reed, Denita Wawn, Brian Loughnane, Paul Everingham, Michael Photios, Lynton Crosby and Mark Textor

KEY ECONOMIC CHIEFS/ADVISERS



Power players: Rod Sims, left, Philip Lowe, Michael Brennan, David Irvine, James Shipton, Karen Chester, Peter Costello and Martin Codina



Treasurer Josh
Frydenberg
KYM SMITH