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Australian Services Roundtable sets the scene for 2017

The peak representative body of Australia's service industry has appointed a new leadership team to lead the charge on the service industry's domestic and international agenda.

ASR CEO, Alina Bain, announced on behalf of the ASR members, that Zoe McKenzie has been appointed as President of the ASR. Ms McKenzie joins Jane Drake-Brockman as Vice President.

Ms Bain, in her remarks to members at the ASR Annual General Meeting in Sydney yesterday, introduced Ms McKenzie and said "As Chief of Staff to former Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb, ASR's new President Zoe McKenzie joins the Board with in-depth experience in shaping international agreements. Ms McKenzie's knowledge of trade policy along with her extensive private sector experience as a lawyer and business consultant, and now specialist business owner, brings a depth of expertise to the ASR. Her experience has made her one of Australia's key commentators and public speakers on trade, often published in the Australian Financial Review and Sky News."

Ms Bain noted experience and contribution of Jane Drake-Brockman to services and trade. "Ms Drake-Brockman established the ASR 15 years ago to ensure that Australian services were represented in trade negotiations. She has forty years experience in the provision of economic and trade advice to government and business and is a leading expert in trade and services. Jane is an invaluable member of the ASR Board and now the executive and we are very pleased that she has taken up the role of Vice President", said Ms Bain.

At yesterday's ASR Annual General Meeting, Ms McKenzie has shared her vision with ASR members and industry partners.

"Having seen first-hand the dialogue with our international partners, whether it was during the 2014 G20 summit, with India for the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement or the FTA talks between Australia, the European Union and Indonesia, I believe this is an extraordinary time for the ASR and the service industry as a whole," said Ms McKenzie

"Increasingly, services are becoming more prominent in our trade agreements, such as the ground-breaking access for the services sector in ChAFTA particularly in health care, aged care and tourism."

"However these agreements are only half the work - businesses are not tapping into the range of opportunities that have been secured in these agreement, and there is a strong risk of losing them to other countries who seek to match our competitive gains in subsequent agreements."

"Together with the service industry, we will drive the uptake of these opportunities and pursue our on-going focus on services in future FTAs."

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About the ASR: The Australian Services Roundtable is the peak business body for the Australian services industries. ASR represents Australia's services industry across a range of sectors including telecommunications, financial, education, and ICT services. ASR's key objective is to secure Australia's place in the global services economy.

<http://australianservicesroundtable.com.au>

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