

Media Release

Mr Danny Pearson MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop

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ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO STEP DOWN

Ms Kate Symons will step down as the Chairperson of the Essential Services Commission (ESC) on 30 June after being in the role for five years.

Ms Symons was appointed full-time Commissioner and Chairperson in 2019, after being a part-time Commissioner since 2016. Ms Symons is one of four ESC commissioners.

During her time as Chairperson, Ms Symons has reshaped the ESC as a stronger consumer-focussed regulator with broader and more complex functions including a strong compliance and enforcement focus.

Ms Symons has overseen the implementation of the ESC's nation leading Getting to Fair strategy which improves access to essential services for consumers experiencing vulnerability.

Ms Symons previously acted as solicitor-assisting for the HIH Insurance Royal Commission and held roles within the university sector and the Federal Court of Australia.

The ESC is Victoria's independent regulator of essential services supplied by the electricity, gas, water and transport sectors.

The ESC will support the Allan Labor Government's strategic review of the Victorian Energy Upgrades program – ensuring it will help more Victorians electrify their homes and businesses, slash power bills and further reduce emissions.

Quotes attributable to Assistant Treasurer Danny Pearson

"Ms Symons has provided strong leadership of the Commission during her tenure, significantly strengthening protections for customers and ensuring the Commission remains a high-performing regulator."

"I thank Ms Symons for her service to Victoria and wish her all the best in her future endeavours."