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## New CEO for Australia's marine science agency

Dr Paul Hardisty, an environmental engineer with global experience in research leadership, collaboration and innovation has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).

An internationally respected scientist, Dr Hardisty has worked in both the private and public sectors, most recently as a member of CSIRO'S Executive Management Committee, initially as Director of CSIRO'S Climate Adaptation research portfolio, then as Director of its Land and Water Flagship. Dr Hardisty was co-founder of the international consultancy Komex Environment Ltd, leading its growth from start-up to a \$50 million pa revenue, employing 1000 employees and operating projects throughout Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Komex was acquired by the ASX-listed international engineering services company Worley Parsons in 2006. Dr Hardisty then joined WorleyParsons, serving seven years as Director, Corporate Sustainability and Global Director, Sustainability and Economics, responsible for developing and embedding economic, social and environmental sustainability into delivery of major projects worldwide.

The Chairman of AIMS Council, The Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, welcomed Dr Hardisty's appointment, saying he would provide visionary leadership for AIMS at an important time in its growth and development.

*"Dr Hardisty has worked extensively in marine and coastal environments and on marine research projects, nationally and internationally, with many of the key stakeholders and customer groups that AIMS deals with. This knowledge will be of considerable assistance as AIMS works to expand its network of connections and collaborative partnerships. Paul's substantial private sector and business experience will also be a great asset to AIMS at this time, in the context of the Australian Government's emphasis on innovation and business development, and its wish to see stronger linkages established between government research agencies and industry",* said Ms Wensley.

*"His proven business development, revenue generation and financial management skills, combined with a strong multi-disciplinary background in science, engineering and economics and a demonstrated capacity for creative and innovative thinking, will enhance AIMS ability to fulfil its mission: to support the management and protection of Australia's marine environment and resources; to capture the opportunities that Australia's maritime industries represent to the nation; and to deliver the data, research and advice that governments, industry and the community need to make informed decisions about our marine estate".*

Dr Hardisty, whose appointment will take effect on 24 July, 2017, succeeds Mr John Gunn, AIMS CEO since 28 November, 2011.

Paying tribute to Mr Gunn, Ms Wensley said: *"Mr Gunn has given great commitment to AIMS during the five and a half years he has held the role of CEO. Under his leadership, AIMS has consolidated its position as one of the world's most highly-regarded and influential marine research agencies. John has worked tirelessly to ensure that the country's investment in AIMS is well-justified, delivering research of the highest quality to serve the nation. We thank him most sincerely for his contribution and wish him well for the future. "*

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