



Dominic Perrottet
Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST CHIEF ECONOMIST FOR NSW

Respected economist Stephen Walters has been appointed as the State's first Chief Economist with a mandate to bolster the capacity of NSW Treasury to lead economic reform and debate.

Mr Walters, who spent more than a decade as Chief Economist for investment bank J.P. Morgan, will advise the NSW Government on State, national and global economic issues, analysis and trends.

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the appointment would add strength to NSW Treasury.

"Mr Walters will provide fresh and innovative economic analysis, strengthening our ability to manage economic challenges from both home and abroad," Mr Perrottet said.

"The NSW economy is strong and this appointment is about reinforcing the State's capabilities and keeping it on the front foot."

Mr Walters joins the NSW Government after serving more than two years as Chief Economist for the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mr Walters is the current chair of the Executive Committee of the Australian Business Economists (ABE).

After starting his career at the Department of Treasury in Western Australia, Mr Walters has worked as Senior Economist in the UK for Norwich Union, Senior Economist at Access Economics before spending more than 14 years at J.P. Morgan.

"I'm looking forward to harnessing the existing knowledge at NSW Treasury to ensure the public and key stakeholders have a clear understanding of the Government's position on key economic issues," Mr Walters said.

"The State has been powering the national economy but there are challenges on the horizon.

"It is critical that we not only address those challenges but articulate our roadmap for long-term economic success."

The announcement follows the recent appointment of the State's inaugural Productivity Commissioner Peter Achterstraat AM, who will be responsible for driving microeconomic reform and targeting regulatory roadblocks.

“Stephen’s appointment builds on the considerable existing talent and expertise in Treasury, and will enhance our leadership and analysis on economic issues,” NSW Treasury Secretary Michael Pratt said.

“This appointment, coupled with the Productivity Commission, will also support our desire to lead on micro-economic reform.”

Mr Walters will commence in the position mid-July.

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