

## Media release

February 6 2013

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### REAL ESTATE CALLS FOR NEW MINISTER TO BRING COMMON SENSE TO THE TABLE

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The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) congratulates The Honourable Chris Bowen on his appointment as Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research and Minister for Small Business.

REIA President Mr Peter Bushby says the real estate profession hopes that the new Minister will bring some common sense and a fresh pair of eyes to the table when it comes to national licensing.

“The push to meet artificial timelines and pre-determined outcomes has meant our concerns to date have been ignored. REIA has consistently argued on behalf of not only real estate agents, but consumers.”

“The lack of analysis and numerous inaccuracies in the National Occupational Licensing Authority’s (NOLA) consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on national licensing for real estate must not result in our profession being sacrificed on the altar of political expediency.”

“There are numerous issues to be addressed, including commercial licensing thresholds and continuing professional development. If the government forces us into national licensing too early, without these issues rectified, it will have a detrimental effect on consumers and consumer confidence,” added Mr Bushby.

REIA calls upon the government to release the Decision RIS as soon as possible in order for the Treasurers to make a properly informed decision and consult meaningfully with key stakeholders prior to the Standing Council of Federal Financial Relations meeting in the first half of the year.

The Council of Small Business of Australia (COSBOA) says national licensing is a good idea that is being destroyed by stripping real estate of higher standards, continuing professional development and commercial licensing thresholds.

REIA wants the status quo option to be pursued given that the RIS fails to provide a reasonable case for change and it wants real estate moved to the second tranche.

This position is supported by public opinion and the overwhelming majority of the 802 RIS response submissions. REIA’s full RIS response submission can be found at

[http://reia.com.au/userfiles/MEDIARELEASE\\_1350876017.pdf](http://reia.com.au/userfiles/MEDIARELEASE_1350876017.pdf)

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