

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Distinguished educator appointed to oversee new, high powered group**

Distinguished education professional, Sheree Vertigan AM, will chair a new high-powered group being established to boost economic development in the region. The appointment was made by the Cradle Coast Authority's (CCA) owner representatives, following a rigorous selection process.

The Regional Economic Development Steering Group is an initiative of the Regional Futures Plan, developed and lead by CCA. The group's role will include identifying, prioritising and advocating for industry and infrastructure needs on behalf of the region.

CCA Chief Representative, Mayor Jan Bonde, said that Ms Vertigan was ideally qualified for the role.

"A major thrust of the Futures Plan, is ensuring that we have the kinds of jobs required to attract and retain talent in the region, and that the people who choose to work here, have the skills that industry needs. Sheree's experience in education is an added bonus, on top of her significant leadership qualities." said Mayor Bonde.

"The Futures Plan is all about investing in and contributing to our community. As the inaugural Chair I welcome the opportunity and challenge of the position. From day one my focus will be on building a strong, committed team and developing an extensive network of advocates for the Futures Plan and our region" said Ms Vertigan.

A former teacher and principal of Reece High School, Ms Vertigan has held a number of senior education roles nationally, including President of the Australian Secondary Principals Association. Her significant contribution was recognised when she was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2017.

She has also held roles with headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation and the Australian National Council on Drugs and is well known for her work with the Devonport Country Club redevelopment and Living and Learning Devonport.

As executive secretary for the International Confederation of Principals, Ms Vertigan works with principals from all over the world, and also runs her own small business.

The Regional Economic Development Steering Group will include senior industry, UTAS and state and federal government representatives, who are expected to be announced shortly. Ms Vertigan is expected to also be appointed as a director of the CCA at the next Representatives Meeting.



Image: Ms Sheree Vertigan AM

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