

# Media Release

For immediate release – 6 December 2023

## **REIA ACHIEVES HISTORIC MILESTONE WITH ALL-FEMALE LEADERSHIP TEAM AND NEW PRESIDENT**

Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) has proudly announced a groundbreaking achievement following its Annual General Meeting, where it revealed an all-female leadership team for the first time in its history.

Real estate industry identity Leanne Pilkington, hailing from New South Wales, assumes the prestigious role of REIA President, while Hannah Gill, based in Canberra, takes on the position of REIA Deputy President.

Adding to this historic leadership ensemble is Anna Neelagama, who continues to serve as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of REIA.

Ms Pilkington remarked, "I am honored to take on board this leadership position to work for all Real Estate Institutes and practitioners. It is truly exciting to lead a historic all-female leadership team as we approach REIA's centennial year in 2024.

"Our focus remains on unity, innovation, and setting the industry on a trajectory for success for the next 100 years and in the near term delivering on the REIA 2025 strategy."

Ms Pilkington extended gratitude to outgoing REIA President Hayden Groves for his invaluable contributions to the industry and for his crucial role in strengthening REIA's advocacy and government relations.

She also acknowledged the departing board member, Damian Collins from Western Australia, for his dedicated service.

Richard Simpson has been appointed as Finance, Risk and Audit Committee Chair, Damian Collins will be succeeded by Joe White (Western Australia), and Pete Matthews will step into the New South Wales Directorship.

Looking ahead to 2024, Ms Pilkington highlighted the continued commitment of REIA to address housing affordability by focusing on boosting supply. She assured that REIA will persist in providing critical insights and advocacy that impact all Australians.

"Our goal is to provide vital information that will positively influence the industry and, indeed, all Australians whether they are tenants, homeowners, first time buyers and property investors."



## Biographies

### *Leanne Pilkington*

Leanne Pilkington is Chief Executive Officer and Director of boutique real estate network Laing+Simmons and is the immediate past President of the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales (REINSW). Leanne was elected Deputy President of REIA in 2021 and is a Director of REI Super. Leanne's 40 years' experience covers the full spectrum of real estate services: sales, property management, retail, and commercial leasing and management as well as property development.

### *Hannah Gill*

Hannah is the Director of Property Management at the Property Collective and the President of the Real Estate Institute of the ACT. She brings over thirteen years' experience in property management as well as build-to-rent, affordable housing and people and culture.

## Board and Office Holders

### *REIA's Officeholders*

Leanne Pilkington, President  
Hannah Gill, Deputy President

### *REIA Finance, Risk and Audit Committee*

Richard Simpson, Chair

## REIA Board of Directors

Andrew Bell (OAM), Additional Director (QLD)  
Ray Ellis, Additional Director  
Cain Cooke, Real Estate Institute of South Australia  
Hannah Gill, Real Estate Institute of ACT  
Adrian Kelly, Real Estate Institute of Tasmania  
Pete Matthews, Real Estate Institute of NSW  
Carol Need, Real Estate Institute of NT  
Leanne Pilkington, Real Estate Institute of NSW  
Richard Simpson, Real Estate Institute of Victoria  
Joe White, Real Estate Institute of WA

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Established in 1924, REIA is a federated body of State & Territory Real Estate Institutes representing 85% of Australian real estate agencies. We are a national advocate for the Australian real estate industry which is made up of 46,793 Australian businesses that employs 133,360 Australians.

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