



AUSTRALIAN OWNED  
CONTRACTORS

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**12 December 2022**

### **PETER THOMAS NAMED NEW AOC CHAIRMAN**

Australian Owned Contractors (AOC) is pleased to announce Peter Thomas as the new chairman of the organisation.

Mr Thomas is a Director and Chief Financial Officer of AOC member company Decmil. He has played a key role in the AOC's advocacy efforts in recent years and will now guide the strategic direction of the industry body.

"I am excited to take on the role of chair and lead our members' push to have more Australian companies building the nation's key infrastructure," Mr Thomas said.

"Research has shown that when governments break up projects into smaller packages or include procurement incentives to encourage Australian company participation in joint ventures on larger projects, Australian contractors win more work.

"Research also demonstrates better outcomes for project owners when they align project packages more appropriately with expertise – i.e. disaggregating megaprojects and managing better aligned contractors.

"By doing this, it means more Australian mid-tier construction companies can participate more in Government projects which are funded by Australian taxpayers. More money stays in Australia, is re-invested in local businesses, and we build sovereign capability in our local contracting industry.

"We are pleased the Federal Government, through its Buy Australian Plan, and various State governments across the country are looking to reform the way they procure major public infrastructure projects to build sovereign capability.

"I look forward to work with these governments to ensure Australia continues its proud tradition of large and successful locally owned contractors."

BMD Chief Executive Officer Scott Power will serve as AOC's new Deputy Chairman.

Inaugural AOC Chairman and Georgiou Group Chair John Georgiou will continue to serve as a Director on the AOC board, along with Bielby Holdings Managing Director Adam Edwards and Diona Chairman David O'Connor.

Mr Thomas thanked Mr Georgiou for his stewardship of the organisation since its formation in 2018.

"John has been the driving force behind AOC, which now includes 17 members across the country, and I look forward to his continued support and advocacy on behalf of Australian owned contractors," he said.

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## **ABOUT AUSTRALIAN OWNED CONTRACTORS**

Australian Owned Contractors advocates for Australian owned construction companies to have more opportunities to deliver major public infrastructure projects across the country.

More information at [www.australianownedcontractors.com.au](http://www.australianownedcontractors.com.au)