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MEET THE SPEAKERS

SEPTEMBER 13 2025

MICHAEL HOWES

COMMONWEALTH TREASURY

Michael Howes is part of the leadership team in the Commonwealth Treasury's Competition Taskforce with primary responsibility for the National Reform Agenda under National Competition Policy.

He is an experienced economist and has worked on a range of policy issues including competition, occupational licensing in health care, aviation, cities and agglomeration, infrastructure investment and population.

In addition to his current role at Treasury, Michael has held roles at the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Commonwealth Departments of Finance, Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Infrastructure, as well as 6 years as a high school teacher.

JOSH WILLIAMSON

CITI AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CHIEF ECONOMIST

As the Australia and New Zealand Chief Economist, Joshua Williamson is responsible for Citi's economic, monetary, and fiscal policy views for these economies.

He has over 20 years' experience in macroeconomic and financial market research and analysis at Citi, TD Securities, and the Treasury Corporation of Victoria. He also worked for over five years as a microeconomic industry analyst specializing in the energy, trade and manufacturing sectors, focusing on market structure, performance and governance, for the South Australian and Victorian state governments.

Joshua holds a Bachelor of Applied Economics degree from the University of South Australia, a Graduate Diploma of Advanced Economics from the University of Adelaide, obtained part credits for a Master's Degree from the University of Melbourne, and is AFMA accredited.

He is also on the Committee of the Australian Business Economists group and previously held a board position in the disability sector.

PROFESSOR PABLO GUILLEN ALVAREZ

**UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
PROFESSOR**

Pablo Guillen Alvarez is a Professor at the University of Sydney, School of Economics. His research is in the field of experimental economics with a particular focus on market design and public goods. Pablo received a Bachelor of Economics from Universidade de Vigo before later completing his PhD in Economics from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Spain.

DINESH KUMARESWARAN

FRONTIER ECONOMICS DIRECTOR

Dinesh is a Director and Board Member at Frontier Economics, with over 22 years of experience as a professional economist. He began his career at the New Zealand Commerce Commission, serving first as an economist and later as a senior economist. During this time, they conducted competition assessments of mergers, investigated alleged anticompetitive conduct and breaches of consumer protection laws, and developed economic frameworks for regulating electricity and gas networks.

Following this, they joined Frontier Economics in London as a consulting economist, where they worked for four years before relocating to Melbourne in 2013. Since then, they have continued their work at Frontier Economics, focusing on regulatory economics, competition and antitrust, and commercial litigation, while also being involved in transaction advisory and public policy work. His clients include governments, regulators, private companies, and law firms.

DR BLAIR CHAPMAN

SEEK SENIOR ECONOMIST

As SEEK's Senior Economist, Dr Blair Chapman undertakes economic analysis and forecasting of the Australian and New Zealand economies and labour markets. He also leverages SEEK's data to develop unique insights about the economies SEEK operates in.

Blair holds a PhD in Economics from Johns Hopkins University where his studies concentrated on macroeconomics and labour. He completed his undergraduate studies at Monash University, where he majored in Economics, Econometrics and Accounting.

He is a member of the ABS' Labour Statistics Advisory Group.