



**Media release**  
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## **SHAPE AUSTRALIA CEO MICHAEL BARNES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

After 20 years at the helm of fit-out and refurbishment leader SHAPE Australia, CEO Michael Barnes has announced his retirement.

Mr Barnes will step down from the day-to-day operations of the company effective from 5 December but will remain involved with the business in a non-executive capacity.

Mr Barnes joined SHAPE in 1991 and has had a remarkable impact on the company, which is now in its 28<sup>th</sup> straight year of profitability, having enjoyed significant growth under his leadership.

He will be succeeded by current Chief Operating Officer Peter Marix-Evans, who has been with the business for over six years. Peter brings nearly 30 years of wide ranging construction and industry experience including senior roles in both commercial and public sectors spanning operations, risk and commercial management, customer experience and environment, health and safety. He has a passion for developing and leading high performance teams.

Commenting on Mr Barnes legacy, SHAPE Australia Non-Executive Chairman Phil Arnall said Mr Barnes had fostered an exceptional culture and work ethic within the business.

This year SHAPE was recognised among the top 10% of places to work in Australia by Human Synergistics, taking out one of its coveted Constructive Benchmark awards.

“We celebrate and thank Mick for his tireless work and remarkable leadership qualities,” Mr Arnall said.

“He has built this company from a small operation to one that now employs more than 330 people across Australia who are widely regarded as delivering the best outcome for customers in the industry.

“Mick’s retirement represents a significant milestone for SHAPE. We are pleased he will remain involved with the business and have the upmost confidence in Peter’s ability to continue Mick’s legacy.”

Passionate about sustainability and equality, Mr Barnes has been instrumental in shaping both in the building industry.

He played a key role in the development of the Green Building Council, sitting on its board for 10 years, pioneering the role of healthy, liveable, productive, resilient and sustainable building practice.

More recently he led the inception of DLG SHAPE, a joint venture with David Liddiard Group (DLG) to create more commercial construction employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

Mr Barnes said of his time with the company: “Most satisfying has been the opportunity to bring together a team of truly exceptional people in a culture of collaboration. Our people are not just industry leaders who deliver service excellence, but also deliver truly inspiring projects.



"I welcome the opportunity to continue to guide the company from a non-executive capacity and look forward to the impact Peter's leadership has on the team and SHAPE's work in the sector."

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For more information, please contact:

Courtney Thurston  
Bastion Effect  
M: 0423 341 769  
Courtney@bastioneffect.com

**About SHAPE**

SHAPE is one of Australia's largest specialist fit out and refurbishment companies, with an annual turnover in excess of \$500 million and a staff of more than 300 people nationally. SHAPE has offices in each mainland state and territory and is a privately-owned company. SHAPE delivers projects across the hospitality, commercial, health, industrial and education sectors.