## **ASX/Media Release**



Date: 3 October 2017

## **Appointment of new Chairman & Deputy Chairman**

Vocus Group Limited (ASX: VOC) today announces that Mr Vaughan Bowen has been appointed as its next Non-Executive Chairman, effective immediately. Mr Bowens' appointment follows the decision of the current Chairman Mr David Spence not to stand for re-election at the 2017 AGM after seven years in the role, as was previously announced with the Company's FY17 final results on 23 August 2017.

In addition, the Company announces today that Mr Robert Mansfield (AO) has been appointed as Deputy Chairman & Lead Independent Director, also effective immediately. Mr Mansfield succeeds Craig Farrow as Deputy Chairman, with Mr Farrow remaining on the Board as a Non-Executive Director, Chairman of the Remuneration Committee and a member of the Technology & Transformation Committee.

Mr Bowen brings an in-depth knowledge of the Australasian telecommunications sector, as well as the companies which today comprise the Vocus Group, from a telecoms career spanning nearly 20 years. Mr Bowen currently serves as Executive Director at Vocus, a role he has held since February 2016, following the merger between Vocus and the M2 Group. Mr Bowen was the founder of the M2 Group and served as its Managing Director & CEO before becoming Executive Director in 2011. In 2012, Mr Bowen was awarded the telecoms industry's highest individual honour, being named ACOMMS Telecommunications Ambassador, for contributions to the industry.

Mr Mansfield has a remarkable corporate and telecommunications pedigree, having previously served as Chairman of Telstra, founding CEO of Optus & CEO of McDonalds Australia. Mr Mansfield was appointed as a Vocus Non-Executive Director in January 2017.

Mr Farrow, outgoing Deputy Chairman, and a member of Vocus' Nomination Committee in conjunction with Mr Mansfield, oversaw the Chair selection process. Mr Farrow said: "The Board believes that given the critical stage of the Company in its transformation program, the absolute priority in terms of appointing a new Chairman was to ensure that the positive momentum the Company is now experiencing be maintained. Mr Bowens' appointment brings continuity to that momentum, together with deep knowledge of the business and an established,

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effective engagement with executive leadership and key stakeholders. Furthermore, the appointment of Mr Mansfield as Deputy Chairman provides Vocus with combined Board leadership of the highest order, in terms of industry experience and company knowledge.

"The Company will continue its Board renewal process over the year ahead, to ensure that we continue to build upon Board capability and independence", concluded Mr Farrow.

Mr Bowen said of outgoing Chairman, Mr Spence: "David has stewarded Vocus from a start-up through to its current place as a large scale, diversified player in the Australian and New Zealand telecommunications sectors. David's commitment to stabilising the Company following a significant period of change over the last eighteen months is of particular note and on behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank him for his service over the last seven years".

In relation to his appointment, Mr Bowen said; "I'm privileged to be given the opportunity to serve as Vocus Chairman and to play an important role in helping to steer the Company back to a position where we recover the value and credibility lost over a disappointing last year. I want to assure all shareholders that restoring value is the Board's utmost priority and, as a sizeable Vocus shareholder, my interests are aligned with all shareholders. I recognise the time for delivering improved, sustainable performance is now and am confident in the talent and experience amongst the leadership team together with the outstanding infrastructure platform we have assembled. With these ingredients in place, meeting our earnings and broader performance targets will be the only acceptable outcomes."

Incoming Deputy Chairman, Mr Mansfield, said: "I genuinely see the opportunity for Vocus to become the pre-eminent challenger telco in the markets in which we operate. I look forward to sharing my experience to support Vaughan in his new role as Chairman and to the wider board and executive team, to help ensure we make every post a winner from here on in.

"I'd like to also warmly acknowledge the substantial contribution made by Craig Farrow, as Deputy Chairman, over the past 18 months," Mr Mansfield said.

Vocus outgoing Chairman, David Spence, said: "I am very proud of the Company we have built and, notwithstanding recent challenges, I believe the Company is exceptionally well placed to continue to grow and realise the benefits of the increasing demand for secure, reliable connectivity. I wish the entire Vocus Board and management team the very best in steering the company through the next chapter of its evolution."

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**About Vocus (ASX: VOC):** Vocus Group is an ASX listed, vertically integrated telecommunications provider, operating in the Australian and New Zealand markets. The Company owns an extensive national infrastructure network of metro and back haul fibre connecting all capital cities and most regional cities across Australia and New Zealand and directly connects more than 5,000 buildings. Vocus owns a portfolio of brands catering to corporate, small business, government and residential customers across Australia and New Zealand. Vocus also operates in the wholesale market providing high performance, high availability and highly scalable communications solutions which allow service providers to quickly and easily deploy new services for their own customer base.