



## MEDIA RELEASE

January 31, 2011

### **Governments and Business Community welcome Commonwealth Business Forum**

Prominent Australian and international businesses will help support the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) – a key meeting to be held on 25 -27 October alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

The Forum, organised by the Commonwealth Business Council in collaboration with the Australian Government and Western Australia Government, is the premier business event on the Commonwealth calendar.

Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett and the Australian Government's Special Minister of State for Public Service and Integrity Gary Gray today officially launched the CBF 2011.

The Forum will bring together more than 1,000 business and government leaders to capitalise on business and investment opportunities in the 54 nations of the Commonwealth and beyond.

Forum partners who attended today's launch included leading representatives of the private sector, including the CBF's Principal Sponsors ANZ Group, BP, Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, Perdaman, Rio Tinto and Woodside, as well as Gold Sponsors BHP Billiton, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Curtin University, Paladin, and Wesfarmers.

Mr Barnett said the level and quality of sponsorship attracted by the Commonwealth Business Council and Mark Barnaba, who is leading Western Australia's involvement in the CBF, was outstanding and a credit to all involved.

"It augurs very well for a great conference which will not only develop business and trade relationships but also showcase our wonderful city, state and nation to the rest of the world," the Premier said.

Mr Barnett, who will be a keynote speaker at the forum, said the CBF would be a key part of the broader CHOGM program.

"While CHOGM itself focuses on political leaders, the gathering of more than 1,000 global business leaders at the CBF will be significant," Mr Barnett said.

Mr Gray said all Australians would benefit from greater economic interaction between Commonwealth countries, which represented around one quarter of the world's countries, and one third of the world's population.

"The Commonwealth Business Forum will provide a unique opportunity for business leaders and government to come together to look for new opportunities to cooperate and share experiences and expertise in the field of commerce," Minister Gray said.



“The Australian Government looks forward to welcoming the Commonwealth business sector to Australia to showcase the strengths of our nation.”

Dr Mohan Kaul, CEO of the Commonwealth Business Council, acknowledged the enthusiastic welcome from the Australian business community.

“The strength of the support from the private sector demonstrates the relevance of the modern Commonwealth to trade, investment and economic growth and we look forward to welcoming business and government leaders to Perth in October,” Dr Kaul said.

Mr Barnaba, Co-Founder of Azure Capital and Co-Chair of the CBF Steering Committee, said the Forum would present real opportunities for Australian businesses to link into the massive growth of north Asia and India.

“The quality of sponsorship we have attracted demonstrates the business advantages available from such a significant gathering of the whole Commonwealth.”

John Denton, CEO of Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Co-Chair of the CBF Steering Committee said the Forum would bring together business leadership and expertise from across the Commonwealth.

“The aim is to share knowledge, but predominantly to do business,” Mr Denton said.

“Previous Forums have generated billions of dollars worth of business and we expect Perth 2011 to generate new business for Australia and a wide range of Commonwealth countries.”

CHOGM 2011 will be held from October 28 – 30, 2011. It will attract more than 4,000 people to Western Australia, resulting in an estimated direct economic impact of \$42.5million additional expenditure in the State from visitor spending and spending by the Australian Government on venues, accommodation, security, dinners and receptions.

For more information visit [www.cbf2011.com](http://www.cbf2011.com) & [www.chogm2011.org](http://www.chogm2011.org)

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