

MEDIA RELEASE

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LEADERS URGED TO SET THE PATH FOR AUSTRALIA IN 2020

International and national leaders and experts will tackle some of the most pressing issues facing Australia over the next decade when they meet in Melbourne next Monday for Future Summit 2007.

Michael Roux, Chairman of Australian Davos Connection and Future Summit 2007, said Australia's leaders now had to consider where it wanted the nation to be in 2020 and the policies and actions needed to ensure it reached those objectives.

"They need to see beyond the greatest economic boom in Australia's history and not be mesmerised into a false sense of security by focusing on the short term," he said. "There is an ongoing danger of a continued disconnect between the decisions taken today and the needs of 2020 and peoples dream's and assumptions about our world in 2020 and beyond."

Mr. Roux said that looking today at the water management, lack of infrastructure, education and health illustrated the disconnect between previous decisions and the 'then future world' of today. However, superannuation policy was a very good example of how a vision established 20 years ago and the subsequent decisions had served Australia well.

"Short-termism is the enemy of our children and our children's children," he said.

"It is important for all of us to ensure that Australia is sustainable and liveable for our current and future generations. Australia's place in the world is an important dimension of this."

New World Order 2.0, the theme of the Future Summit, is designed to provide an opportunity to highlight the significant and substantial transitions being seen today across the economic, political and community sectors and the increasing need for the development of principled, insightful and courageous leadership.

"Leaders need to consider the impact of these major shifts on their role in society and their workplace, as well as the impact on Australia and the region, and prepare for changes that may be required," said Mr. Roux.

He said consideration had to be given to Australia moving to a low carbon economy; implementing the best education system possible, built on social investment and not just market-based solutions; the best health system with a focus on wellness and prevention; and a continued focus on innovation, including technological innovations and infrastructure development.

The Summit provides a forum for Australia's new generation of leaders in the business, political, academic and community domains to come together with international and national leaders and experts to discuss key issues, challenges and trends that are expected to have the greatest impact on shaping our future.

The Future Summit will be addressed by the Foreign Affairs Minister, Alexander Downer, the Federal Opposition Leader, Kevin Rudd, the Chief Executive Officer of Telstra, Sol Trujillo along with international and national leaders including:

Economic / Business

- **Saul Eslake**, Chief Economist, Australia & New Zealand Banking Group
- **Sir Rod Eddington**, Chairman Australia and New Zealand, JPMorgan

Communications & IT

- **Dr Robert Bishop**, Founder & Chairman, BBWorld Consulting Services
- **Nik Gowing**, Main Presenter, BBC World TV
- **Rui Chenggang**, China Central Television (CCTV International)
- **Peter Williams**, Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte Digital

Sustainability / Climate Change / Water

- **Frank Dixon**, Founder, Global System Change
- **Professor Will Steffen**, Director, The Fenner Centre for Society and the Environment, The Australian National University
- **Dr James Bradfield Moody**, Director, CSIRO Land & Water

Nuclear

- **Dr Ziggy Switkowski**, Chairman, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
- **Dr Helen Caldicott**, President, Nuclear Policy Research Institute

Political

- **Paul Kelly**, Editor At Large, The Australian

Inequality

- **David Moffatt**, Group Managing Director, Consumer Marketing & Channels, Telstra Corporation Limited
- **The Most Rev. Dr Philip Freier**, Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

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