

NATIONAL ECONOMIC REVIEW 2011

GAP Annual Growth Summit

NSW Parliament House
Sydney, 16 September 2011



Trade &
Investment



The Institute of
Chartered Accountants
in Australia





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



National Economic Review is a series of annual growth summits organised by public policy network Global Access Partners (GAP) to review Australia's economic strengths, highlight opportunities for progress and develop strategies for national growth and innovation.

The inaugural Summit, held in September 2010, raised the need for a wider definition of growth and emphasised the positive aspects of using new parameters in measuring economic and social progress.

The key themes of the second Summit, held on Friday, 16 September 2011 at NSW Parliament House in Sydney, were the impact and opportunities of Australia's predicted population growth.

National Economic Review 2011 brought together more than a hundred delegates from Commonwealth and State government, academia and industry to discuss demographics, infrastructure and trade capacity, health and education, employment, immigration and fiscal policy, cost of living, innovation and productivity.

As reported in the media and blogosphere (see *App. 5, pp. 59-61*), the Summit enabled an exchange of wide-ranging views between

some of the most influential figures in Australian business and politics.

Population growth is not a novel issue and has been shown to advance economic growth, boost labour markets and drive human creativity, achievement and innovation. In contrast to more pessimistic predictions, the 2011 GAP Growth Summit emphasised the benefits to be gained by embracing such opportunities and outlined strategies by which the nation may stay at the forefront of global economic development.

The Summit featured keynote addresses by **the Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**, Deputy Premier of New South Wales, **the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP**, NSW Minister for Fair Trading, **Dr Ian Watt AO**, Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and **the Hon. Lindsay Tanner**, Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at Victoria University and former Federal Minister for Finance and Deregulation.

The Hon. Andrew Stoner chose the Summit to announce the State Government's plan to strengthen and grow the NSW economy (see *pp. 10-11*).

The Summit was broadcast by *Australia's Public Affairs Channel (A-PAC)* on 29-30 September and 3 October 2011. A number of media channels have covered the event,



including editorials by Jason Clout in the *Australian Financial Review* and Jessica Brown in *The West Australian*, and an interview with keynote speaker **Dr Keith Suter** on 702 ABC Sydney. Keynote presentations by the Summit speakers and delegates are available at openforum.com.au.

KEY POINTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The following key points and recommendations emerged during the debate.

- 1. A relatively open and balanced immigration policy has transformed Australia into the first 'global nation' over recent decades.** The nation's population will inevitably continue to climb in the future, perhaps reaching 36 million by 2050. This will both create opportunities for growth and put pressure on existing infrastructure. Australia's ageing population is another demographic challenge, though increasing personal wealth and immigration to supplement the workforce will ameliorate its impact.
- 2. New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, is embarking on a major programme of infrastructure spending to meet increased demand.** Restructuring Australia's congested cities through enlightened planning to reduce commuting and transport congestion is a longer term priority where government can take the lead.
- 3. Improving productivity and innovation are key to meeting the challenges of the future.** Poor management, fragmented funding, uncoordinated primary provision and artificial labour constraints must all be addressed in the health sector, with rural and regional provision improved and e-health and telemedicine maximised. Australia must embrace a culture which values education, risk-taking and entrepreneurship. Comprehensive skills training is vital as is targeted investment in research with real world applications.
- 4. New technology, the National Broadband Network (NBN) and advanced spatial information techniques will produce fresh solutions and open world markets for Australia's service industries.** Domestic energy storage offers a new approach to ensuring rural and remote energy services. The sourcing of business solutions from internal workforces and elsewhere, rather than prescriptive technological tenders, should be emphasised.
- 5. Australia should follow the United States' lead and create a National Telework Week.** In the US, more than 35,000 businesses and organisations pledge to allow employees to work from home for a week. The Australian Government should encourage employees to use internet connections for work to improve productivity, quality of life and ease the burden on traditional infrastructure.



Telework aligns with policies for developing a high-productivity, high-participation, high-wage, high-skilled and low-carbon economy.

- 6. Australia cannot turn its back on the world and must acknowledge its economic place in Asia and political role in the Pacific.** It is a wealthy country with a small population in a huge land mass endowed with great natural resources. Its population pressures are dwarfed by those elsewhere and result from poor management, rather than implacable natural restrictions. Rather than set arbitrary targets of 'big' or 'small', Australia should endeavour to be the 'best' it can be, with national sustainability as the priority. The issues to be faced are as much human as scientific, economic or technological and require social solutions.

THE SUMMIT'S OUTCOMES & PROJECTS

Following a unanimous vote by *National Economic Review 2011* delegates to create a National Telework Week, as proposed by **Mr Tim Fawcett**, General Manager Government Affairs & Policy at Cisco, in January 2012 the Australian Government announced the *National Telework Week* initiative as part of its *Digital Economy Strategy*, to be held each November across the country. **Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy** has confirmed the Government's goal to double Australia's telework rate by 2020.

GAP is coordinating a number of task forces arising from the first and second Summits, while online discussions through Open Forum and other research mechanisms will support the Summit's goals and ensure its long-term impact.

► **Advisory Group on Commercialising Australian Innovation**

Strategies through which the Australian Government may encourage aspirational business culture and champion SME-led innovation are being debated by the **Advisory Group on Commercialising Australian Ideas**. It includes high-ranking government officials and prominent business leaders and meets four times a year under the auspices of GAP. Australian innovation currently lags well behind that of comparable OECD countries, and the group is considering new policies to drive opportunities for entrepreneurial innovation and support the commercialisation of Australian intellectual property. Expert knowledge and technological innovations born in Australia will continue to languish without targeted strategies to position them within local and international markets.

► **GAP Task Force on Progress in Society**

Australian measures of life satisfaction have declined in recent years, despite solid growth in gross domestic product (GDP). In line with the 2010 Summit's recommendations and international initiatives such as the OECD's Commission on the Measurement of



Economic Performance and Social Progress, the **Task Force on Progress in Society** is exploring how the 'economics of happiness' can inform national policy. The project develops the work of recent studies which argue that traditional economic indicators such as GDP are incomplete statements of national 'wellbeing' and that governments and policy makers should take broader measures of the quality of life into consideration. The Task Force's report will be released in early 2012.

► **Regulating in Technology-Rich Environments: National Standing Committee on Cloud Computing**

Established by GAP in collaboration with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, the **Task Force on Cloud Computing** discussed public policy issues arising from the adoption of Cloud computing in Australia, with a particular focus on industry development opportunities, consumer and small business protection, security and privacy. The group produced six broad recommendations for the Government and presented its report in May 2011, which was followed by a one-day executive workshop in Sydney on 24 June. The Task Force highlighted the opportunity for the Cloud, in combination with the NBN, to be a force for transformational change of the Australian economy and society. The **National Standing Committee on Cloud Computing** will continue to inform ongoing

regulatory processes relating to Australia's digital environment.

► **Task Force on Energy Pricing**

Australia is one of the world's highest per capita consumers of electricity and current methods of energy distribution may prove unsustainable, given future growth in population and demand. 'Information infrastructure', domestic energy storage and modern spatial mapping techniques have the potential to improve planning and cut costs. GAP is creating a task force of senior business executives, government officials and academics to further explore these issues.

► **Institute for Active Policy**

GAP is working with interested stakeholders to establish a new **Institute for Active Policy**, an independent organisation supporting evidence based policy-making. The Institute will seek to improve and accelerate the political decision process by creating sustainable networks among government, public service, business and the civil society. This will in turn facilitate cross-disciplinary and collaborative approaches to regulatory challenges facing Australia.

GAP will report on the outcomes of these and other projects at the next *National Economic Review* Summit, planned for 13 and 14 September 2012 in Sydney.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS



National Economic Review 2011 was organised by Global Access Partners Pty Ltd (GAP) – a not-for-profit public policy network which initiates high-level discussions on the most pressing social, economic and structural issues and challenges across a broad range of Australian economic sectors. Through its pioneering 'Second Track' Process programme of initiatives, GAP seeks to foster links between community, government and academia to streamline the process of 'fast-tracking' solutions to key issues, increase stakeholder participation in policy formation and decision making, and develop novel, cross-disciplinary approaches to regulatory problems by engaging key stakeholders in discussions and research.

The Summit was co-sponsored by **GAP's partners** whose role extends beyond the event through membership in the national consultative committees and advisory bodies facilitated by GAP.

Our thanks go to the following organisations for their contribution and foresight in supporting the development of the 2011 Summit:

- **NSW Department of Trade & Investment**
- **Australian Unity**
- **Australian Centre for Health Research**
- **HP Enterprise Services**
- **The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia**
- **Open Forum**

(for more information on the sponsors and partners, see App. 3, pp. 46-52)



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

National Economic Review 2011 was held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber of the NSW Parliament House and consisted of **three plenary sessions** and a **working lunch** under the following headings:

- **Demographics & Population**
"Population & Demographics; Health & demographics, Immigration Policy"
- **Infrastructure**
"Transportation, Health, Trade Capacity, Information & Communications Technology"
- **Australia's Population Debate**
"Australia's Population Debate: An International Perspective"
- **Jobs & Fiscal Policy**
"Fiscal Pressures, Job Creation, Education, Innovation and Productivity"
"Changing gear: Preparing for a different world"

Each session began with thought provoking addresses from the keynote speakers and continued as a dialogue between delegates in a parliamentary style (*for a full programme, see App. 1, pp. 37-38*).

The keynote speakers and session chairs of *National Economic Review 2011* were (*in alphabetical order; for speakers' profiles, see App. 2, pp. 39-45*):

Mr James Bangay

General Manager, ROAMES
Ergon Energy

Prof Bob Birrell

Co-director, Centre for
Population & Urban Research
Reader in Sociology, Monash University

Mr Alan Bennett

Managing Director
Vice President, Enterprise Services
Hewlett-Packard South Pacific

Mr Alan Castleman

Chairman
Australian Unity



Mr Peter Fritz AM

Group Managing Director, TCG Group
Managing Director, GAP

Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO

National Clinical Lead
National e-Health Transition Authority

Mr Tim Harcourt

Chief Economist
Austrade

Ms Lisa Middlebrook

Executive Manager
Policy & Strategy, GAP

Prof Tony Peacock

Chief Executive
Cooperative Research Centres
Association

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Fair Trading
NSW Government

The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP

Deputy Premier
NSW Government

Dr Keith Suter

Managing Director
Global Directions think tank
Foreign Affairs Editor, Channel 7 Sunrise

The Hon. Lindsay Tanner

Vice-Chancellor's Fellow
Victoria University

Dr Ian Watt AO

Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet

Mr Lee White

Executive General Manager – Members
The Institute of Chartered
Accountants in Australia

Dr Peter Woodgate

Chief Executive Officer
Cooperative Research Centre
for Spatial Information

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



The key points made by each speaker are outlined below. Full transcriptions of the speeches are available on request from GAP.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Ms Lisa Middlebrook
Executive Manager, Strategy & Policy
Global Access Partners



Ms Lisa Middlebrook welcomed participants to the Summit and invited the Hon. Anthony Roberts, the New South Wales Minister for Fair Trading, to deliver the welcoming address.

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Fair Trading
NSW Government

The Hon. Anthony Roberts said while the debates on Australia's population policy are often couched in simplistic terms of 'big' or 'small', with both advocates of growth and the status quo believing only their approach

can guarantee quality of life, steady population growth continues regardless. He saw infrastructure spending, the focus of the previous year's *National Economic Review*, as instrumental in catering to increased demand and stressed the NSW Government's commitment to sustained, integrated and targeted investment in transport, health and housing to address bottlenecks, drive short-term employment and unleash long-term productive capacity.

Mr Roberts said the establishment of Infrastructure New South Wales will improve assessment and delivery and develop a twenty-year strategy to manage the impact of population growth. He heralded the State Government's plans to spend \$62.2 billion on infrastructure over the next four years and the \$314 million recently allocated to the North West Rail Link.

Ten thousand housing blocks will be released in Sydney over the next four years and reviews of the Planning Act and strata management will ensure a transparent, flexible and sustainable approach to housing across the state. The State Government aims to increase the regional population by 470,000 by 2036 and is working with regional communities, business groups and local government to encourage new investment and ensure



more people have access to economic and lifestyle opportunities. It aims to relieve Sydney's congestion through Regional Relocation Grants, a Jobs Action Plan and its Resources for Regions policy.



Minister Roberts accepted the problems caused by an ageing population, with the number of people aged over 65 expected to double in the next twenty five years, and laid out government plans to improve dedicated retirement accommodation. However, although population growth raises issues of migration, skills shortages, productivity and the environment, it offers great opportunities for NSW and Australia.

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier
NSW Government

The Hon. Andrew Stoner elaborated on the State Government's programme to support economic growth in Australia's largest and most diverse economy through improved

planning and legislation. He observed the challenges posed by the strong dollar, economic woes in the United States and Europe, the rapid growth of China and India and population growth and ageing at home and abroad, before giving a detailed account of the Government's immediate proposals and its ten-year *NSW 2021* plan. The NSW economy is projected to grow by over 30% in the coming decade, with the workforce expanding from 3.5 million to 3.9 million, the population reaching 8 million and its average age increasing from 39 to 41.

The NSW Government has allocated \$7.5 million over two years to improve the planning system, scrapped Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and initiated a wide-ranging review of the State's planning legislation. It will address housing shortages by accelerated releases of land in the North West and South West Sydney growth centres and has earmarked \$37.1 million to stimulate housing growth. The establishment of Infrastructure NSW will see projects considered under a detailed five-year infrastructure plan and twenty-year State Infrastructure Strategy. The Government will spend \$62.6 billion on infrastructure over the next four years, with a \$6.3 billion investment in transport and roads, funding for major rail infrastructure including \$314 million to develop the 23km North West Rail Link between Epping and Rouse Hill, \$292 million to continue construction of the South West Rail Link, and \$103 million to expand light rail in Sydney's CBD and the Inner West. An



Integrated Transport Authority will ensure transport projects are built on time and on budget.



Regional NSW will see a \$4.2 billion investment in the rural road network and the upgrade of the Pacific and Princes Highways, funded in part by the long-term lease of Port Botany. Thirty per cent of funds of all funding will go to rural and regional projects outside Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, with \$362 million for rural and regional bus services, \$159 million for rail improvements on the Country Regional Network and \$17 million for community transport services.

Payroll tax rebates will encourage employment, while investment will be boosted by the State Investment Attraction Scheme and the Regional Industries Investment Fund. The Government will help NSW businesses tap into international markets and drive exports, trade and investment, particularly in the fast growing economies of China and India, through the new NSW Export and Investment Advisory Board. The Multicultural Business

Advisory Panel will work with the Export and Investment Advisory Board to harness the State's cultural diversity, language skills and international connections. Skills development, education and training will increase competitiveness and links between business, education and research will focus on workforce and industry development.

Business migrants bring investment, skills and jobs to the state, while immigration helps meet skills shortages and sustains an ageing workforce. The State Migration Program is being reviewed to boost the attractiveness of NSW for priority skilled migrants. A skilled workforce is vital to maintain competitiveness. Industry Action Plans and Industry Taskforces will help position key industry sectors for future growth, resilience, innovation and productivity, furthering global competitiveness and fresh investment opportunities over the next decade. Five sectors, comprising manufacturing, professional services, the digital economy, international education and research and tourism and events, are the initial priorities.

Research, innovation and technology will continue to play a key role. The Government has committed \$10 million in 2011/12 to the Science Leveraging Fund to increase the competitiveness of bids made by NSW research consortia to Commonwealth research funding programs. Small businesses will be served by Small Business Commissioner Yasmin King, while red tape will be reduced by 20% through a 'one on, two off' rule for new



regulations. A thirty-day payment policy will be introduced across the public sector to ensure NSW Government agencies pay their bills on time to support business cash-flows.

Mr Stoner concluded by underlining the commitment of the NSW Government to address the challenges posed by demographic trends as part of a holistic approach across all levels of Australian government.

SESSION ONE - DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION

"Population & Demographics; Health & demographics, Immigration Policy"

Session Chair

Mr Tim Harcourt

Chief Economist

Austrade



Mr Tim Harcourt outlined his complex heritage in the context of immigration to Australia and stressed the importance of recent immigrants in driving economic growth, as one in four

Australians were born overseas. He then introduced the keynote speakers, Prof Bob Birrell of Monash University and Mr Alan Castleman, Chairman of Australian Unity.

Prof Bob Birrell

Co-director, Centre for

Population & Urban Research

Reader in Sociology, Monash University

Prof Bob Birrell assessed the key demographic issues facing Australia over the next forty years. Assuming the de facto "Big Australia" policy continues, net migration remains at 180,000 per year and current fertility levels are maintained, Australia's population will grow to 36 million by 2050. If net migration ended tomorrow, the population would still grow to 26 million in that time.

The imminent retirement of the baby boomer generation born in the decade after World War Two and the comparative lack of people aged 15 to 24 entering the workforce will cut growth in GDP from its average of 3.3% over the last forty years to 2.7%. He argued that increasing immigration would not affect per capita economic growth significantly, but would increase accommodation costs. He played down demographer Bernard Salt's fears that more people would leave the workforce than enter it in the near future, as continued migration would make up the deficit. Older people could increase their participation in the labour force, as in Sweden, to allow it to grow at 1.3% over the next eleven years. Prof Birrell cited the growth in participation by men aged

55 to 59 from 71.6% in 2000 to 79.2% in 2009. He stressed the need to improve the skills of new workers, with only 50% of 18-20 year olds currently engaged in any form of post-school training.



The strong Australian dollar has reduced the price of imports, but damaged manufacturing, and Prof Birrell warned of threats to the Melbourne property boom.

Mr Alan Castleman
Chairman
Australian Unity

Mr Alan Castleman discussed the immense potential of productivity gains in Australia's large, but underperforming health sector. He lamented the general reluctance to address population issues in the past and welcomed the greater openness of discussions today.

The difficulties posed by burgeoning numbers of retirees will be minimised by projected growth in real income, from \$58,000 per capita in 2010 to \$104,000 in 2050. While Australians aged over 65 will increase from 13% of the total population to 22% by 2050, Germany (20%) and Sweden (18%) maintain economic health with similar figures today, thanks to high workforce participation rates and comprehensive training. A lack of planning in the USA has created the opposite situation, with budget deficits of over 9% of GDP due to decades of tax cuts and swelling entitlements in social security and Medicare.

Prof Birrell warned that, although South-East Queensland, Sydney and Melbourne already suffer infrastructure problems and diseconomies of scale, they are projected to grow by 2.5 million over the next forty years.

Only a healthy population can fulfil its potential for productivity, and although people are living longer, they are more likely to be suffering from chronic disease. A third of people who retire between 50 and 65, do so because of ill health or injury. Each person who requires medical care absorbs resources from the productive economy, while family members often reduce workloads to tend them. Health care costs Australia \$170 million, a figure rising almost 10% per year, and employs 1.3 million people, or 11.4% of the workforce – six times as many as mining.

Health costs increased by more than the entire budget for economic infrastructure in 2009. Almost a million extra health workers will be required by 2025 at the current rate of growth of 43,000 health workers per year, while in twenty years it may absorb some \$250 billion, almost a quarter of GDP, unless dramatic

improvements in health productivity are achieved.



Mr Castleman questioned the ethics of importing expensively trained health workers from developing countries such as the Philippines, but new ways of training workers at home will have to be found as current methods will not satisfy demand as the aged population increases. Increasing funding will not tackle inefficiency caused by poor management, fragmented funding, uncoordinated primary health care and artificial labour constraints.

The problem is complicated by the difficulty of measuring the value of health outputs. There is an understandable reluctance to play economic values on human life, but in reality such decisions are made every day.

Efforts to increase the supply of health services will reduce costs, but require the breaking down of institutional and labour

barriers and an end to the Government being seen as the sources for all solutions.

DISCUSSION

When comments were invited from the floor, Mr Castleman stressed the need to address the social aspects of immigration. Increases in crime and social disruption could be tackled through better coordination between existing agencies, while a federal and state office of social infrastructure and community development could drive research, identify needs and buy services. Other speakers favoured the pursuit of the 'best' Australia, rather than a 'big' or 'small' country, although it was observed another approach was to choose 'big' or 'small' and then optimise that chosen scenario. It was argued the composition of immigration significantly determines its impact on Australian society and that criminality increased when immigration criteria were relaxed for certain areas, be they the Pacific, Lebanon, Vietnam or Eastern Europe. On a brighter note, Australia is one of only three countries in which the children of immigrants perform better at school than other students. Speakers urged immigration policies favouring skilled workers, genuine family reunions and political, rather than economic, refugees.

Services comprise 72% of Australia's economy, complicating objective assessments of its productivity. The potential for skilled older women to re-enter the workforce, particularly in the health sector, was stressed, if more

flexible working arrangements were available. More fluid arrangements, facilitated by modern technology, would also reduce absenteeism. The problem of people supporting social housing and aged care facilities in theory, but objecting to them in their locality in practice, was raised, as was the work of UTS around affordability infrastructure and sustainability issues.

Session Chair Tim Harcourt thanked the speakers and participants and closed the session on an optimistic note regarding Australia's hospitality to new citizens.

SESSION TWO – INFRASTRUCTURE

"Transportation, Health, Trade Capacity, Information & Communications Technology"

Session Chair

Dr Peter Woodgate

Chief Executive Officer

**Cooperative Research Centre
for Spatial Information**

Dr Peter Woodgate welcomed participants to the second session, which tackled issues of infrastructure, transportation, health, trade capacity and information technology. He outlined the size and potential of the spatial information sector and explained the ability of competing global positioning systems (GPS) to drive \$32 billion of added value to the Australian economy, through high precision agriculture technologies and greatly expanded satellite imaging capacity.



Such technology will improve health planning and service delivery, develop 'virtual cities', track transportation, manage resources and handle risk and model scenarios with far greater precision than today. He advocated a strategic technology training plan to equip workers for the new challenges ahead, before introducing the first speaker, Dr Ian Watt AO, Secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Dr Ian Watt AO

Secretary

Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet

Dr Ian Watt expressed his support for GAP's 'Second Track' process, noting its success in encouraging more open discussions with foreign military sources, acknowledged the importance of infrastructure in its widest sense to Australia's future and discussed health reform and the NBN in detail. He said Australia's health system was built on values which have ensured its strength in the past, but acknowledged it faced enormous challenges in the coming decades. Australians expect all citizens to have access to a high

standard of care and believe the Government should ensure care for those unable to afford it themselves. However, costs are increasing rapidly as the population ages and treatments and expectations expand in scope. Hospital costs, borne by State and Territory Governments, have increased by 9% per annum in the last five years, while average revenue growth lags at 6% a year.



The National Health and Hospital measures, agreed after much discussion by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in July 2011, will introduce three major reforms to prepare the sector for the challenges ahead. Activity-based costing will allocate money to hospitals on the basis of the price or the number and type of services provided and generate incentives to increase quality and efficiency. Accountability will move to local hospital networks and *Medicare Locals* and transparent reporting will ensure governments, local authorities, patients and families have up-to-date information on funding and performance. The Australian Government has also

committed to funding half of all hospital spending from 1 July 2017.

The NBN will address the demands of Australia's small, mobile and well educated population for egalitarian access to telecommunications. Australians are concentrated in a handful of cities spread across the continent, making it difficult for commercial operators to provide high-speed, easily accessible internet at a politically and publicly acceptable price. The NBN, Australia's largest ever infrastructure project, aims to provide reliable, ubiquitous, high-speed broadband to all premises and help Australia become one of the world's leading digital economies by 2020. It will make businesses more efficient, education and health systems more effective, information more accessible and communities more connected. Beyond laying cables, it will build skills in communities, ensuring the capability is actually used effectively, while programmes such as the Digital Communities Initiative will broaden its social impact. Dr Watt noted the security concerns digital technologies could pose for government, business and citizens and said a forthcoming white paper will assess cyber risks and possible responses at home and abroad.

In conclusion, Dr Watt framed health reform and information and communication technologies (ICT) as examples of an ongoing government agenda to strengthen Australia's foundations and noted that both projects involved a range of federal, state and private business stakeholders working together

alongside non-government organisations and communities.

Dr Peter Woodgate thanked Dr Watt before introducing the Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO, clinical lead for the National e-Health Transitional Authority (NeHTA) and President of the World Medical Association.

Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO

National Clinical Lead

National e-Health Transition Authority



Dr Mukesh Haikerwal argued that the health of the nation extends beyond medicine to encompass productivity, economic growth, confidence and the state of society. In contrast to the USA, where tens of millions of people remain uninsured and labour mobility is limited by the fear of losing employer-funded health insurance, he believed Australian healthcare to be essentially robust. He saw spending on health and wellbeing as a sound investment in the future, as well as the

mark of a caring, fair and equitable society. Though the progress of ever larger numbers of people into old age demonstrates the success of the system, it also poses problems of finance and provision which have to be faced. Inequalities, particularly in indigenous care and rural and regional provision, remain to be tackled, and new methods must be embraced, as health costs continue to grow, to ensure a sustainable system for the future.

He reiterated the four pillars of reform identified by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission in June 2009 – the focus on patient care and transparency of information, improving communication between disparate health providers, ensuring equity of care across the country for all disadvantaged groups and, finally, ensuring standards of care across all health sectors.

Dr Haikerwal stressed the need for all Australians to be able to access a personal electronic health record. Such records would improve communication between health professionals and institutions to avoid mistakes when patients are transferred across clinical boundaries. Though this requires further investment in e-health infrastructure, the NBN will greatly facilitate its operation, allowing rural patients to consult metropolitan specialists by video. In conclusion, Dr Haikerwal praised Australia's role in international research and medical organisations, believing Australia should invest in health research to maintain its record of punching above its weight in international

terms, and was optimistic about the productivity potential of future reforms.

Mr James Bangay
General Manager, ROAMES
Ergon Energy



Mr James Bangay argued that current methods of energy distribution will prove unsustainable, given future growth in population and energy demands. Given Australia's large size and scattered rural population, the costs of infrastructure per customer are prohibitive, with his company alone servicing 700,000 customers spread across 1.7 million square kilometres with 150,000 kilometres of circuit. Small communities may be hundreds of kilometres from the nearest generation point and are currently served by power lines which must be able to service rare bursts of peak demand and maintain a constant supply in adverse

conditions, given the modern dependence on electricity in every facet of life.

He extolled the potential of 'information infrastructure' and modern spatial mapping techniques to improve planning and cut costs. He believed that households could be designed to improve energy efficiency, with peaks in demand drawing on domestic stores of energy, rather than stressing the grid. Spatial mapping techniques will help generate the accurate information and models required to make the case for such a system and manage its operations.

In cooperation with the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI), the Australian Centre for Aerospace Engineering and Queensland Department of Environment, Ergon has fitted out two aircraft with infrastructure management systems which, from November 2011, will fly over all the built infrastructure in Queensland every year to build and maintain a precise model of the environment and track the growth of 100 million trees near power lines. This will generate 400 terabytes of cloud-stored data, which will not only improve electricity planning, but offer a valuable resource for government, transport agencies and other bodies, as well as private industry.



DISCUSSION

The floor was opened to questions. It was agreed the NBN's facilitation of distance medicine will help redress the reluctance of doctors to work in outlying areas and be particularly useful for rural seniors. It was noted the sums for e-health are still dwarfed by traditional hospital expenditure, although NeHTA has spent \$400 million to establish a framework for health interconnectivity. The plethora of private, State and Commonwealth systems used to track progress and medication should be consolidated into a system enabling cross-connectivity, not least for reasons of cost. It was noted that the US Veteran's Department track 30,000 clients using e-health for \$1,800 per capita per year, compared to a cost of \$80,000 using bricks and mortar locations. It was also hoped that rather than being treated as a burden, the energy and experience of older people should be seen as a resource.

The concept of complexity was offered as a common factor in these discussions, while the need to exploit the potential of the NBN to drive service exports was stressed. Australia's geography drives innovative solutions to the servicing of sparse populations across large distances which can be marketed successfully abroad.

Mr Bangay believed proposals for measures to affect demand for energy were futile, as consumer devices were freely available and most supply costs were sunk into

infrastructure such as power lines and power stations, rather than actual power generation. He again favoured domestic energy storage as the best solution to regulate demand, allowing a lower level of provision to accommodate high peaks of usage. Financial incentives, such as lower bills and subsidised battery systems, would encourage people to accept less than 24/7 mains supply, as long as their access to energy was not affected. Such storage would allow houses to maintain power after infrastructure damage from storms or other causes, allowing repairs to be carried out more economically over several days without engendering a sense of crisis.

The need for more investment in primary health infrastructure was again emphasised, given its cost effectiveness compared to acute hospital care. The need to address perceptions was also raised, with elderly patients who have undergone expensive cardio-surgery expressing greater happiness with their care, despite the fact that it had little appreciable clinical benefit.

Dr Haikerwal explained that e-health records could help teams of clinicians and informed patients make more rational health decisions. He noted that parliament had agreed on new health identifiers legislation in June 2010 to better handle issues of privacy and that work on these issues continued. The need for decisions to be made about the rationality of expensive treatment at the end of life should also be tackled.



The concept of the 'internet of things' was raised, with research showing that by 2015, there will be 85 million internet-enabled devices in Australia, with most people connected to the net most of the time, changing the nature of work and social interaction. The Federal Government aims to increase the number of teleworkers from 6% to 12%, reaping obvious savings in energy and transport congestion. The idea of a national telework day or week was raised, with government and businesses encouraging employees to use internet connections for work to improve productivity, quality of life and ease the burden on traditional infrastructure.

Overly strict privacy regulations were criticised for imposing undue costs for no discernible benefit and impeding service delivery for customers. People are prevented from discussing their own or their partner's services without onerous efforts to prove identity, wasting time and resources for all concerned. A plea for restrictions on discrimination based on knowledge, rather than the knowledge itself, was made.

Changes wrought by the NBN and cloud computing led some to suggest that the notion of communities will change radically in the near future and express doubt that institutions such as schools will exist in their traditional form in fifteen years' time. Notions of cities, nations, language and relationships may all be eroded or superseded by the ubiquity of the hyper-connected virtual world of the near

future. Many professional services – psychiatry, law and education among others – are based on exchanges of language and physical proximity which are set to change utterly and in unpredictable ways.

Dr Peter Woodgate closed the session, noting that there was a consensus that the challenges facing Australia including an ageing population, migration and resource allocation could be re-framed as opportunities to discover solutions, increase productivity and market innovations to the world.

LUNCH SESSION

"Australia's Population Debate: An International Perspective"

Mr Lee White

**Executive General Manager, Members
The Institute of Chartered Accountants
in Australia**



Mr Lee White, Executive General Manager of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, introduced Dr Keith Suter.

Dr Keith Suter**Managing Director****Global Directions think tank****Foreign Affairs Editor, Channel 7 Sunrise**

Dr Keith Suter proposed Australia as the first 'global nation'. He believed the country should receive more credit for its successful transformation from its Anglo-Saxon past into a 'melting pot' of other nations, where age-old ethnic and national disputes are abandoned by new immigrants eager to embrace the attractive Australian lifestyle. Dr Suter said Australia should foster its national brand image and saw its failure to do so as symptomatic of its shallow, confused and apathetic attitude to public policy debate. While there is now a minister for sustainable population and specific policies such as immigration and healthcare with demographic impacts, there is still no overall population strategy. Dr Suter offered the example of Iran in arguing that demography is not necessarily destiny, observing that the Mullahs who advocated population growth after the 1979

revolution are now encouraging birth control and have reduced population growth rate to around 0.7% - less than Australia. He believed Australia had rejected the visionary "populate or perish" thinking of its early years and the major infrastructure projects of the immediate post-war period, such as the Snowy River scheme, and needed to re-embrace nation building and pursue a national vision.

Governments remain wary of public population debates, lest they encourage a nationalist backlash, but have a pivotal role whether they seek it or not. Measures to make workplaces more 'parent-friendly', for example, would directly affect the birth rate, just as the Scandinavian kindergarten movement was a direct response to falling birth rates a century ago. Political parties are torn about migration issues, with political leaders following public sentiment rather than leading it, telling people what they want to hear, rather than what they need to know.

Dr Suter argued politicians should mobilise resilience, rather than fear, and criticised the media for focusing on personalities involved in the 'horse race' of policies, rather than examining the merits of the policies themselves. He praised the Howard Government for accepting refugees from Kosovo during the Balkan conflicts and decried the media-led 'moral panic' over asylum. He observed that Australia accepts just 13,500 asylum seekers per year, out of the world's 30 million refugees and its own intake of 180,000 migrants. Only 30,000 people seek asylum in



Australia per annum, and as Australia is a geographically isolated landmass in the Pacific, unlike European countries or the United States, its borders are among the most secure in the world.

Dr Suter warned against an obsession with population targets, observing that large populations were no longer necessary, for security or economic success as defence and workforces now rely on quality rather than quantity, and pointed to the success of Singapore, Switzerland and Norway. He saw national sustainability, rather than a set number of people, as the imperative and urged a focus on the environment and special distribution, rather than raw numbers. He appealed for “community leadership” beyond professional politicians to defuse the asylum debate, the provision of incentives for asylum seekers to stay at home and an end to the terminological confusion between economic migrants and endangered asylum seekers. He recommended Randy Olsen's book *Don't Be Such A Scientist* and its discussion of the roles of 'head (rationality)', 'heart (love, nostalgia and patriotism)', 'gut (fear)' and 'the reproductive system (sex)' in crafting persuasive messages.

He praised the British Government's imaginative use of *The Archers* to publicise farming techniques in a populist fashion after World War Two and Georgia Sadler's education of hairdressers in California on health issues, which they then discuss with their clients. Finally, Dr Suter urged an upbeat

message to engage and mobilise public attention in achieving an economically and environmentally sustainable country, observing that the Reverend Martin Luther King “*had a dream, rather than a nightmare*”.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Questions and comments were invited from the floor. The assumption that Australia's current social cohesion was accidental, rather than carefully planned, was questioned, as successive governments consciously encouraged a rich diversity of migrants from across the world and worked to integrate them into Australian society, rather than allow large populations from particular regions to become insular and estranged from society or create intractable bi-cultural problems. Another speaker believed global population would eventually decline, given that fertility decreases with affluence and female education and much of the current growth is fuelled by increasing longevity, rather than new births. It was acknowledged that increasing prosperity in India, China and elsewhere increased demand for resources, placed further stress on the environment and would cause problems towards the middle of the century. The issue was not the number of people in the world, but the effect of their consumption on the planet. As a local example, housing development in northern Sydney is devouring good agricultural land, formerly used for market gardens, damaging Australia's long-term food security.

Re-energising the political system to meet future challenges was suggested, with the observation that many more people are members of environmental organisations than political parties in Western democracies, and that power is now centred in corporations or media interests as much as legislative houses. However, while many people believe state governments should be abolished, with power devolved to the local level, there is no realistic likelihood of this happening.

The negativity of the debate in Australia was criticised, and the fact that Australian cities score very highly on indices of the best places to live should be remembered. The congestion problems faced by Australian cities, though trumpeted by the local press, are trifling compared to those of other conurbations around the world. The need for the country to stay connected to Australian ex-patriots was raised, to encourage inward investment and extol the benefits of Australia to the world.

SESSION THREE – JOBS AND FISCAL POLICY *"Fiscal Pressures, Job Creation, Education, Innovation and Productivity"*

Session Chair

Mr Alan Castleman

Chairman

Australian Unity

Mr Alan Castleman introduced keynote speakers Alan Bennett and Tony Peacock.

Mr Alan Bennett

Managing Director

Vice President, Enterprise Services

Hewlett-Packard South Pacific (HP)



Mr Alan Bennett quoted economist Robert Solow's 1987 observation that "you can see the computer age everywhere but in the productivity statistics", but argued that even though macro-productivity gains are elusive, micro-gains from technology-enabled solutions within particular firms are both achievable and desirable. The need to improve productivity is clear as Australia has fallen from fifth to fifteenth in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, with productivity growth declining to levels last seen in the 1960s in recent years.

Productivity is largely driven by problem-solving innovations. Australia does not require macro-solutions, tax incentives or major funding packages, but improvements do demand firm-level and industry-wide analysis and strategies, education, investment in infrastructure and technology, and workplace



reform. Although figures can be misleading - mining and utility productivity dropped by 40% and 33% respectively in the last decade due to long-term capital investment in new power and desalination plants, dam upgrades and mines and mining infrastructure which is only now producing outputs - organisations must define the problems hampering productivity and empower individuals to find creative solutions, rather than look at the problem with a solution already in mind, or with too narrow a frame of reference.

Transport bottlenecks, for instance, can often be cleared more quickly and cheaply by a series of process changes or information systems improvements than massive road or rail building schemes. By integrating the supply chain into a single information portal, the Spanish Port of Valencia improved container processing times by 60% over five years. Poor workforce productivity is better handled by improving incentives and refreshing internal processes than waiting for future government industrial relations reform. New methods to source intellectual property are also emerging. Innocentive.com allows organisations to offer incentives for crowd-source innovation, ranging from \$1 million for doubling the speed of genome-sequencing technology to \$5,000 for a new container for a six pack of boutique beer. HP is using social media tools to allow its 320,000 strong workforce to uncover problems and generate solutions.

If private or public organisations approach the market with a problem to be solved, rather than a detailed set of functional requirements, fresh solutions can often be found at a fraction of the cost. Although this approach requires operational maturity, as only strong organisations and managers will admit they do not have all the answers, work by the Society for Knowledge Economics, Macquarie Graduate School of Management and University of Technology, Sydney identifies a strong link between management performance and organisational productivity. A 2004 study by Black and Lynch found that up to one third of US output growth came from productivity-enhancing innovations at the workplace level.

Technological questions will get technological answers, but the key for clients and vendors alike is to focus on business solutions. The productivity debate should generate engagement between users, suppliers, employees and managers to solve specific problems, rather than rely on a 'silver bullet' of macroeconomic reform.

Prof Tony Peacock

Chief Executive

Cooperative Research Centres Association

Prof Tony Peacock saw innovation as the single most important component of long-term growth, and noted that innovation and population have always been entwined. Just as better flint production enabled certain Indian



groups to vastly improve hunting success and thus increase their population 30,000 years ago, so the domestication of livestock and cereal production allowed for much greater populations to develop. Economies grow through increasing inputs or using inputs more effectively and, in the long run, only 15% of growth comes from the former, while 85% derives from the latter.



Population growth need not strongly correlate with environmental damage. Spain has almost twice Australia's population, yet generates over 40% of its power from renewable sources, while Australia derives only 6.5% of its power from renewables.

Leadership, attitudes and culture play vital roles in driving innovation, more so than simple necessity. Innovative people tend to congregate, and encouraging such innovation hubs is vital for success, particularly as such people tend to shun mega-cities such as Los Angeles – or Sydney. Australia should develop its 'new economy' jobs, learning centres and

technology hubs in places which offer lifestyle advantages away from large cities.

Australia is not simply a 'lucky country' - the hard work and ingenuity of the nation's farmers and miners have made the most of the country's opportunities. The Government's Innovation System Scorecard shows that although research investment is improving, it skews towards academic research which is less cited than average and leads to fewer patents and new products than similar research abroad. Australia currently languishes 22nd in the latest Global Competitiveness Index and 29th in 'business sophistication', while General Electric's global survey of executives viewed Australia as a 'traditionalist' nation in terms of new ideas.

Prof Peacock believed Australia overstated the role of research and development (R&D) and fails to appreciate that R&D does not necessarily lead to the real change implied by innovation. He noted that a campaign to prevent possible cuts in health research had been successful without ever demonstrating a link between health research and improved clinical outcomes. Far from funds being cut, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and other health budget increased by 10% from \$1,211.7 million in 2010-11 to \$1,347.1 million in 2011-12. The priority is not greater funding, but better targeting and use of funds. The 1998 Wills committee recommended *"priority-driven research that contributes directly to population health and evidence based health care"*.



A 2004 committee led by John Grant noted *"while some of the recommended actions were implemented, the research output has been limited and the impact on health outcomes has been relatively low"*. A 2009 review of the NHMRC's population health work said it received *"robust feedback, indicating disappointment that NHMRC has not responded adequately to recommendations from the Wills and Grant Reviews of the NHMRC - both of which recommended an increase in priority driven and strategic research with the greatest potential to contribute to improved population health."*

Mr Peacock saw health research as systematic of the national tendency to mistakenly label all R&D as innovation. He argued that 'hobby research' should not be termed innovation and that spending should be balanced between making pure discoveries and converting such discoveries into tangible, practical applications. Issues of resource exhaustion, loss of biodiversity, global warming and pollution should be considered on a global scale, while arguments of an 'appropriate' population for Australia are misplaced, as a truly innovation country would have few problems dealing with its projected population of 36 million. Innovation is the key to creating a more resilient society, economy and environment and more of the nation's resources and 'mental wealth' should be dedicated to this end.

DISCUSSION

Session Chair Alan Castleman thanked the speakers and invited comments from the floor. The need to explore the human sciences was raised, with the observation that predictions in the late 1980s that Japan was poised to overtake the USA had fallen flat not least because the USA was open to immigration and new ideas, which had paid dividends in Silicon Valley and elsewhere. The problems to be faced are human, more than scientific or technological, in nature and require social solutions.

The impact a larger population would have on the environment was also questioned, and the need to gather more information, as has been the case with water, was underlined. The salination of agricultural land, due to deforestation and unsafe irrigation practices in the past, was not a product of population pressures at the time. The need to change the terms of debate with the popular press was also raised, with the abandonment of a useful scheme to donate computer equipment to schools in Africa due to misplaced media fears of 'green dumping' offered as an example.

The importance of improving productivity in the health sector was again stressed, with current policy weighted towards optimising the cost of what is already delivered, rather than delivering the maximum amount from current expenditure. Targeting improvements at certain indigenous or immigrant communities might also be more productive



than simply increasing funds overall. Just as South Africa has shifted funding from cancer drugs for older patients to pre- and postnatal care due to funding restraints, so Australia may be forced to make similar hard decisions in the future. The potential for exporting Australian health services via broadband to the rest of the world should be explored, with specialists now able to consult patients or offer second opinions from anywhere on the globe.

The many opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce waste in the health system were underlined, with the trend towards micro-specialisation, and therefore an unnecessarily large number of patient visits to specialists for related conditions, criticised. The plethora of State and Federal bureaucracy was seen as another barrier to innovation. The potential for the NBN provide a platform for profound productivity improvements across every single sector of the Australian economy was defended and the growing acceptance that Australia's economic future depends on services, rather than agriculture, mining or manufacturing, was praised.

The gulf between the knowledge of what needs to be done to safeguard the environment and the political will to take action was highlighted, as was the failure to turn research into environmental and other problems into commercially viable solutions. The potential benefits to be reaped by seed-funding a wide range of potentially innovative solutions were stressed, as was the need to

assess the outputs of investment and control bureaucracy, particularly in health, to ensure scarce resources were not being squandered. The concept of agricultural, resource, energy and environmental limits to economic growth was raised, with the observation that a sustainable economy is impossible without a sustainable environment. Fears that the nitrogen cycle, biodiversity and the climate were already irreversibly damaged were expressed and the need to examine a 'steady state' economy which pursued happiness beyond financial terms put forward.

The reluctance of Australian venture capital to fund innovative ideas drew comment, as did an endemic Australian reluctance to view failure as a pre-condition to success, in contrast to the more forgiving attitudes prevalent in the USA in general and Silicon Valley in particular. Australian water solutions were praised and offered as applicable to problems worldwide, and water pricing was recognised as a necessary step to encourage investment in clean water provision.

Mr Alan Castleman closed the session before Ms Lisa Middlebrook introduced the closing keynote speaker, former Finance Minister the Hon. Lindsay Tanner.

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEECH

"Changing gear: Preparing for a different world"

The Hon. Lindsay Tanner
Vice-Chancellor's Fellow
Victoria University



The Hon. Lindsay Tanner noted the power of demography in driving economic and political events through history, from primogeniture creating a cadre of idle well-off young men eager to join the crusades in the past, to the population explosion in the drought stricken Horn of Africa and land use in Rwanda sparking ethnic conflict today.

In the Australian context, he acknowledged the reality of the ageing population, but noted that higher health expenditures were not necessarily a problem if they proved productive, given that much current expenditure is 'wasted' on ephemeral consumer items. Existing structures require reform, particularly as workforce participation

will decline in the near future, but action can be taken in a balanced and intelligent way.

Mr Tanner praised Australia's flexible and successful approach to superannuation and retirement incomes, contrasting it with failed schemes to use corporations to deliver social welfare and the problems now faced by the USA and China. However he warned that the incipient structural shift between contributors and pensioners will affect the unwieldy proportion of equities currently invested in pension schemes.

He noted that regions in Australia needed to export useful products or services, domestically if not internationally, and were vulnerable to competition or changes in demand. He offered the example of his childhood home of Orbost in far-east Gippsland as a regional economy which suffered as employment in its main industry of logging declined. He noted that a major problem with remote indigenous communities was that they exported nothing to the rest of the country and relied on artificial assistance to survive. The challenge was to support regional development and manage the impact of structural change without making regions dependent on federal handouts.

Mr Tanner moved on to discuss congestion problems in Australia's cities, arguing they had *"outrun the even remotely efficient boundaries of the land-centric city"*. Australia's cities grew in the assumption that land – and the capacity for infrastructure systems to spread laterally –



were infinite, however, both these presuppositions have been proven wrong. Releasing more land for housing was not a solution if people living there had to commute long distances on congested transport systems to work.

A more logical solution to commuting congestion would be to move the jobs to where people live. However, transforming a mono-centric city into a multi-polar conurbation is complicated by the shift from single to double income households and blue collar to white collar employment in high-rise buildings, which are cheap for employers, but create huge transport problems for the cities concerned. Governments could take the lead and move departments from the centres of cities, but such proposals were always opposed by workers who lived further from the new regional, rather than central, location. The question was how to manipulate the 'wider settings' to get a better match between residents and employment location without unduly intervening in market forces. Mr Tanner advocated the Commonwealth sell-off of land at Badgerys Creek to create a major employment hub for that region.

He also underlined the importance of skills, particularly as Australia lags behind many competing members of the OECD in terms of formal qualifications. Though gains have been made, the major impediment to higher standards is not a lack of money, bureaucracy or poor teachers, but a lack of respect for education from Australian parents, who tend

to see schools as child-minding centres and fail to imbue a love of learning in the home. He praised the influence of Asian immigration in helping to change the national culture to value education, rather than disparage it.

He agreed with other speakers that raw population numbers were meaningless, as were calculations of environmental impact, as technology and other factors would change significantly over the coming decades. He believed that people who argued that a continent with just over 20 million people could not possibly support any more were seen as ridiculous by people enduring far more stringent circumstances elsewhere in the world. The US has fifteen times Australia's population density, while Korea has a much greater population with fewer of Australia's rich resources. The world is evolving from domination by one country - be it Britain in the 19th century or the USA in the 20th - into a more complex world of multiple power sources in which Australian isolationism will be impossible. The problems of population and congestion so far discussed are failures of poor management in a vast, resource-rich country with a comparatively small and wealthy population and, as pressures begin to mount, it is management and governance which has to improve to deal with them.

Mr Tanner saw population growth as inevitable, although its speed could be controlled to an extent, and not something to fear. Although Australia faced no credible threat of invasion, it remains important to



maintain good relations with regional partners, as integration into the community of nations is vital for Australia's future prosperity and security.

He deprecated reluctance to take action on climate change until countries with much poorer populations, such as India and China, took action and believed a prosperous country, such as Australia, should be taking the lead. He disagreed that Australia could be directly compared to nations such as Norway, Switzerland and Singapore, as they were small nations at the heart of enormous markets, while Australia was a massive landmass which would always be at the fringe.

Mr Tanner discussed the relationship between private investment and infrastructure, noting that the private sector had always financed infrastructure through the purchase of government bonds. This 'one-size-fits-all' funding mechanism has now been supplemented with public private partnerships (PPPs) which have been largely successful, despite inevitable and very public growing pains. PPPs have been facilitated by the development of computer technology to clinically disaggregate risk and dissect incredibly complex transactions in a cost effective manner, impossible thirty years ago. Mr Tanner believed PPPs are controversial because most politics proceeds on the assumption that someone else will pay for provision and PPPs make transparent

the fact that the public will pay, instead of it appearing 'free'.

He said Australia's main foreign policy objective should be joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), arguing that Asia is the country's natural home and the pretence that Australia is an Anglo-European nation at the other end of the world should end. He saw it as critical for Australia's long-term security and prosperity to acknowledge Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and similar nations as Australia's 'natural family', without detracting from the importance of Australia's long-term alliance with the USA, historic ties to the UK and close trading links with Japan, Korea and China.

Mr Tanner appealed for an end to wasteful regional spending, seeing many schemes as expensive political advertising of doubtful practical utility. He believed the country's talented fund managers would be more willing to invest in regional Australia, if there was a fixed cost of due diligence and feasibility, and that the Government might encourage regional development by subsidising the returns of a regional fund. This would encourage investment outside the major cities at much smaller cost to the public purse than thousands of state-funded "*historic railways and cheese factories*". Mr Tanner championed a culture of risk-taking entrepreneurship, rather than state handouts and a "*lazy middle-management tax-breaks kind of mentality*". Australia's core national vision of 'have a go' is



undermined at every turn when the failure of any kind is magnified out of all proportion by the media's need to peddle *schadenfreude*.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Ms Lisa Middlebrook invited questions from the floor. Asked if Australia had a moral obligation to take refugees from over-populated areas, as well as Asian-trained professionals, Mr Tanner said there had to be a mix of people within an overall figure. He noted that refugees could become skilled workers and that older grandparents often cared for children, allowing young entrepreneurs to build their businesses, and instilled desirable values, such as respect for education, into the next generation. He agreed that Australia valued education more than it had in the past, but expressed annoyance at the award of honorary degrees to boorish celebrities and statements which appeared to denigrate the worth of education. He believed that public figures had a moral obligation not to glory anti-intellectualism.

Another speaker advocated a wider definition of wellbeing, beyond traditional measures of GDP, and Mr Tanner agreed that such approaches could be useful, if pursued with rigour. He noted the vital importance of relationships to people's happiness, over and beyond financial considerations, and the importance of functional relationships to the success of a business, but warned against any approach which oversimplified the complex nature of human society.

The next speaker asked why Mr Tanner had placed Australia in Asia, rather than the Pacific. Mr Tanner said that the entire Pacific region had the population of Brunei, but agreed that Australian policy makers had unduly neglected Pacific nations and Papua New Guinea, which were regarded by the world as Australia's backyard. Although Pacific nations are economically less significant to its future, it remains Australia's national responsibility to ensure they are prosperous and secure.

Asked to consider environmental factors in planning population change, Mr Tanner agreed that fisheries, soil fertility, water and climate were vital, particularly as economic growth is allowing vast numbers of previously poor people in the world to aspire to Western lifestyles. He sympathised with developing countries suspicious of Western attempts to curtail their economic growth in the name of environmental responsibility, and saw human ingenuity and technological progress as the key to socially beneficial, but environmentally sustainable, development.

The need for a culture which celebrates learning was agreed, and the possibility of re-framing Australian primary education on more successful Finnish lines was raised. The lack of funding and attention for primary education was criticised and greater involvement by businesses urged as the most important long-term investment for health, creativity and imagination.



Asked where population growth might end, Mr Tanner observed that politicians today could not make decisions for Australians hundreds of years into the future. He agreed with the importance of primary schooling, although he observed that it was important to improve values, rather than import the specifics of any particular country's system, and observed that \$14 billion had been spent on the controversial 'building education revolution'. He championed the pursuit of excellence and urged an approach which balanced equality of opportunity and outcome in a sophisticated manner to encourage the full expression of every Australia's potential.

Ms Lisa Middlebrook thanked Lindsay Tanner as a long-term supporter of Global Access Partners, before inviting GAP's founder, Mr Peter Fritz AM, to close the Summit.

Mr Peter Fritz AM

**Group Managing Director, TCG Group
Managing Director, GAP**

Mr Fritz outlined GAP's current and forthcoming activities and thanked the summit's sponsors, the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, the Australian Centre for Health Research, Australian Unity, HP Enterprise Services, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and Open Forum. He praised the speakers, the work of the Steering Committee and the quality of the debate and invited those present to next year's Summit.



THE STEERING COMMITTEE



The Steering Committee of business and government executives and academia worked for a year on the Summit's programme, goals and objectives, topics for discussion and a continuity strategy, to ensure outcomes are achieved beyond the event. The members of the Steering Committee for *National Economic Review 2011* were (in alphabetical order):

Mr Alan Bennett

Managing Director
Vice President, Enterprise Services
Hewlett-Packard South Pacific

Ms Olga Bodrova

Senior Research Analyst
GAP

Ms David Masters

Government Relations Manager
HP Enterprise Services

Mr Peter Fritz AM

Group Managing Director, TCG Group
Managing Director, GAP

Ms Catherine Fritz-Kalish

General Manager
GAP

Prof James Guthrie

Head of Academic Relations
Institute of Chartered Accountants
in Australia

Ms Kimina Lyall

Group Executive, Corporate Development

Australian Unity

Ms Lisa Middlebrook (Chair)

Executive Manager
Strategy & Policy, GAP

Mr Warwick Hearne

Executive Solutions

Ms Helen Hull

Editor, Open Forum

Ms Jane Inall

Executive Officer to the CEO
CRC for Spatial Information

Mr Alok Ralhan

Director, Industry Policy
Industry & Investment NSW

Dr Peter Woodgate

Chief Executive Officer
CRC for Spatial Information



PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

105 delegates from the following **79 organisations** participated in *National Economic Review 2011* (for the full list of delegates, see App. 4, pp. 53-58):

- ▶ Austrade
- ▶ Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ▶ Australian Centre for Automation & Field Robotics
- ▶ Australian Centre for Health Research
- ▶ Australian Computer Society
- ▶ Australian Financial Review
- ▶ Australian Institute of Company Directors
- ▶ Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association
- ▶ Australian Unity
- ▶ AVCAL
- ▶ Blake Dawson
- ▶ BUPA Australia Group
- ▶ Carbonflow, Inc
- ▶ Centre for Independent Studies
- ▶ CFO Magazine
- ▶ Choice
- ▶ Cisco Systems
- ▶ Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information
- ▶ Cooperative Research Centres Association
- ▶ Deloitte
- ▶ Department of Broadband, Communications & the Digital Economy
- ▶ Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations
- ▶ Department of Finance & Deregulation
- ▶ Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
- ▶ Ergon Energy
- ▶ Evans & Pecks
- ▶ Executive Solutions
- ▶ First 5000
- ▶ Foreign Affairs Editor, Channel 7 Sunrise
- ▶ Global Access Partners
- ▶ Greening Australia Ltd
- ▶ Health Informatics Society of Australia
- ▶ Hollis Hochberg
- ▶ HP Enterprise Services
- ▶ HydroCon Australasia
- ▶ I-Med Network
- ▶ Information City
- ▶ Information Technology Industry innovation Council



- ▶ Institute of Business Leaders
- ▶ Integrated Wireless
- ▶ International Centre for Complex Project Management
- ▶ Johnny Warren Football Foundation
- ▶ L'Estrange Group – Counsel and Advisers
- ▶ McAfee Australia
- ▶ Melbourne Graduate School of Education
- ▶ Michael Gill & Associates Pty Ltd
- ▶ Monash University
- ▶ MYOB
- ▶ NAB Private Wealth
- ▶ National Australia Bank
- ▶ National Consultative Committee on Security & Risk
- ▶ National e-Health Transition Authority
- ▶ NSW Department of Finance and Services
- ▶ NSW Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services
- ▶ Office of the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, NSW Minister for Fair Trading
- ▶ Optus
- ▶ Safe Climate Australia
- ▶ Salmat
- ▶ SAP Australia & New Zealand
- ▶ Sapere Research Group
- ▶ Seniors First
- ▶ Shearwater Solutions
- ▶ Sine lactura Pty Limited
- ▶ Sky News
- ▶ SmartNet
- ▶ Social Innovation in Western Australia
- ▶ Sophos
- ▶ SPC Consulting Group
- ▶ Stable Population Party
- ▶ StanCert
- ▶ TCG Group
- ▶ Telstra Corporation
- ▶ The Australian
- ▶ The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia
- ▶ The Treasury
- ▶ University of Canberra
- ▶ Ventureonauts
- ▶ Victoria University
- ▶ Victorian Government



APPENDICES

PROGRAMME

Friday, 16 September 2011

**Legislative Assembly Chamber, NSW Parliament House
Macquarie St, Sydney**

8:15am _____ *Registration*

8:55am _____ Introduction

Welcome Address

Opening Keynote Address

Ms Lisa Middlebrook

Executive Manager – Strategy & Policy, GAP

The Honourable Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Fair Trading

New South Wales Government

The Honourable Anthony Roberts MP

Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade & Investment

Minister for Regional Infrastructure & Services

New South Wales Government

9:25am _____ **Session One**

Session Chair

DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION

*“Population & Demographics,
Health & Demographics, Immigration Policy”*

Mr Tim Harcourt

Chief Economist, Australian Trade Commission

Prof Bob Birrell

Co-director, Centre for Population & Urban Research

Reader in Sociology, Monash University

Mr Alan Castleman

Chairman, Australian Unity Limited

10:45am _____ Discussion

10:30am _____ *Morning Tea Break*

10:50am _____ **Session Two**

Session Chair

INFRASTRUCTURE

*“Transportation, Health, Trade Capacity,
Information & Communications Technology”*

Dr Peter Woodgate

Chief Executive Officer

Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information



		Dr Ian Watt AO Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
		Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO Chair, World Medical Association (WMA) Council National Clinical Lead, NeHTA
		Mr James Bangay General Manager - ROAMES, Ergon Energy
11:35am ____	Discussion	
12:30pm ____	Lunch	Macquarie Room, Parliament House
	Introduction & Vote of Thanks	Mr Lee White Executive General Manager - Members The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia
	Keynote Presentation	<i>"Australia's Population Debate: An International Perspective"</i> Dr Keith Suter Managing Director, Global Directions think tank Foreign Affairs Editor, Channel 7 Sunrise
1:45pm ____	Session Three	JOBS AND FISCAL POLICY <i>"Fiscal Pressures, Job Creation, Education, Innovation and Productivity"</i>
	Session Chair	Mr Alan Castleman Chairman, Australian Unity Limited
		Mr Alan Bennett Vice President & Managing Director, HP Enterprise Services
		Prof Tony Peacock Chief Executive, Cooperative Research Centres Association
2:25pm ____	Discussion	
3:00pm ____	Keynote Presentation	<i>"Changing gear: Preparing for a different world"</i>
	Introduction & Vote of Thanks	Ms Lisa Middlebrook Executive Manager – Strategy & Policy, GAP
	Keynote Speaker	The Honourable Lindsay Tanner Special Advisor to Lazard Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, Victoria University
3:25pm ____	Q&A and Discussion	
3:55pm ____	Vote of Thanks	Mr Peter Fritz AM Managing Director, GAP Group Managing Director, TCG
4:00pm ____	Close	

SPEAKERS PROFILES



Mr James Bangay

**General Manager, ROAMES
Ergon Energy**

James Bangay, an electrical engineer with extensive experience in the operation and management of Ergon Energy's network, has in recent years become a champion for intelligent systems capability within the energy industry. Ergon Energy covers an electricity supply area of 1.5 million square kilometres, giving it the largest geographic energy distribution footprint in Australia. The vastness of the distribution area combined with the goal of greater efficiencies in network management, have in part inspired James as a champion of the use of 4D (space and time) simulation. The application of this technology is set to improve productivity and service outcomes, driving information integration and presentation using state of the art visualisation technologies. James commenced his career with Ergon Energy's predecessor Capelec in 1994 and since then has performed many roles including: oversight of construction and refurbishment activity, driving network reliability and performance improvements, forecasting network growth and capital development, and managing the enterprise technology strategy.

Mr Alan Bennett

**Managing Director
Vice President, Enterprise Services
Hewlett-Packard South Pacific**

Alan Bennett is Vice President and Managing Director for Enterprise Services, HP South Pacific. In this role, Bennett is responsible for business growth in Enterprise Services core areas of

infrastructure services, business process outsourcing and application solutions across Australia and New Zealand. Alan Bennett was previously the Industry Leader for Government & Defence for Enterprise Services, HP South Pacific, responsible for leading growth and setting strategy to optimise new opportunities within the government and defence industries. Alan's focus was leveraging HP's local and global credentials to further grow the business within these industries across the region, with particular emphasis on driving new business in applications development, system integration and shared services capabilities. Alan has a wealth of government and commercial experience, having secured some of EDS', now HP Enterprise Services, largest contracts in Europe, Middle East, America and Asia Pacific and having spent over two decades working within or for government clients. Alan has gained extensive global industry experience since joining EDS in 1995 and has been responsible for helping secure major contract wins in both the government and corporate sectors, including telecommunications. During his time at EDS, Alan has led both the Asia Pacific and UK sales organisations, and was acting president of EDS Japan during 2001-2002. His success in helping secure many of EDS' major outsourcing contracts saw him win multiple EDS Inner Circle Awards for sales performance. Alan began his career in the Federal Government in Canberra with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Attorney General's Department. Alan holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Economics, Accounting, Law and Computer Science from the Australian National University.

**Prof Bob Birrell**

**Co-director, Centre for
Population & Urban Research
Reader in Sociology, Monash University**

Dr Bob Birrell (PhD Princeton - Sociology) is Reader in Sociology at Monash University and the Founding Director of the Centre for Population and Urban Research at Monash University. He has advised successive Commonwealth governments on immigration policy and was a member of the Government inquiry which produced the *Evaluation of the General Skilled Migration Categories* published in 2006. His most recent publication on Australia's population outlook is *Immigration and the Resources Boom Mark 2* (2011) which is available on the CPUR website at arts.monash.edu/cpur. His research focuses on the social, economic and environmental implications of population growth in Australia.

Mr Alan Castleman

**Chairman
Australian Unity**

Alan Castleman has been Chairman of Australian Unity Limited since 1993. Mr Castleman is a professional director with significant experience in the health, aged care and investments sectors, as well as manufacturing, resources, transport and infrastructure, having served as Chairman of 15 companies in a total of some 25 boards over recent years. He currently also chairs the Australian Centre for Health Research Ltd, an independent industry funded think tank, which collaborates with Global Access Partners (GAP) in certain activities. Since late 2006, Mr Castleman has also been an executive director and principal with the ProNed organisation involved in Board Search and advisory services. Qualified in engineering and commerce, he had a previous 24 year executive career with BHP.

Mr Peter Fritz AM

**Group Managing Director, TCG Group
Managing Director, GAP**

Peter Fritz is Managing Director of GAP, and Group Managing Director of TCG - a diverse group of companies which over the last forty years has produced many breakthrough discoveries in computer and communication technologies. In 1993, some of the 65 companies in the Group were publicly floated on the Australian Stock Exchange as TechComm Group Limited (now called Utility Computer Services UXC), with great success. Another former TCG company floated on the New York Stock Exchange in November 1997 for US\$600m, making it the largest technology company to be established in Australia until that time. Today the TCG companies, and entities with TCG roots, employ well over 6000 people with a turnover in excess of \$1.3 billion annually. In 2000 Peter established Global Access Partners (GAP) - a not-for-profit organisation which initiates high-level discussions on the most pressing social, economic and structural issues and challenges across a broad range of Australian economic sectors. Peter's innovative management style and corporate structuring has led to the creation of a business model which is being copied by many successful entrepreneurs, and has become part of university undergraduate and masters programs in business management in Australia and around the world. Peter Fritz also chairs a number of influential government and private enterprise boards and is active in the international arena, including having represented Australia on the OECD Small and Medium Size Enterprise Committee. He is the holder of six degrees and professional qualifications, is a recipient of the Order of Australia, and has received many other honours.



Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO
National Clinical Lead
National e-Health Transition Authority

Dr Mukesh Haikerwal is a General Medical Practitioner in Melbourne's Western Suburbs where he has practised since 1991. He is currently working with the National e-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) as its National Clinical Lead and Head of the Clinical Leadership & Engagement Unit. Between February 2008 and June 2009, he was appointed as a Commissioner to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission by the Prime Minister and Minister for Health. He was the 19th Federal President of the Australian Medical Association (AMA), its Federal Vice President and, prior to that AMA Victorian State President. He was the founding Chair of the Westgate Division of Family Medicine now the Westgate GP Network covering the Federal seats of Gellibrand and Lator. Dr Haikerwal is a Professor in the School of Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. He also chairs the beyondblue National Doctors' Mental Health Program and the General Practice Data Governance committee. Internationally, he has held the position of Chair of the World Medical Association Finance and Planning Committee. In April 2011, he was appointed Chair of Council of the World Medical Association, an esteemed honour. In January 2011 Dr Haikerwal was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to medical administration, to the promotion of public health through leadership roles with professional organisations, particularly the AMA, the reform of the Australian health system through the optimisation of information technology, and as a general practitioner.

Mr Tim Harcourt
Chief Economist
Austrade

Tim Harcourt is the chief economist of the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade). He analyses the global economy to help Australian exporters and helps Austrade devise its own international business strategies. A prolific author and globetrotter, Tim has visited over 50 countries in the past five years alone. Tim is an active commentator in the Australian and international media on economic and trade issues. He appears regularly on TV and radio shows, including ABC's *Lateline*, *Business Lateline*, *Sky Business*, *Sky Agenda*, *Kochie's Business Builders*, *Mornings with Kerry-Anne*, *Sunday Sunrise*, *Australia Network's Business Today*, *Bloomberg*, *CCTV*, *BBC* and *CNBC Asia*. Tim also writes for a number of major publications, including *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Business Review Weekly*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Australian*, *The Advertiser*, *The OECD Observer*, *The Economic Times* and various website and blogs including *The National Times*, *Smart Company* and *The Globalist*. His articles and speeches can be found on the "economist's corner" web page at www.austrade.gov.au/economistcorner. Before joining Austrade, Tim was an economist and industrial advocate with the ACTU. He also worked for the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission and has overseas experience in the corporate sector in the UK the USA and Israel. Tim was educated at the University of Adelaide, the University of Minnesota and Harvard University. His latest book, *The Airport Economist*, is a Top Ten Business Books' bestseller and can be found at www.theairporeconomist.com.

**Ms Lisa Middlebrook****Executive Manager
Policy & Strategy, GAP**

Lisa Middlebrook is Executive Manager for GAP's annual Growth Summits. She is responsible for external relations, programme development and general management of the Summit. She also manages the Summit's Steering Committee and helps guide the Summit's long-term task forces. Prior to assuming her role as Executive Manager, Strategy and Policy, at GAP in September 2009, Lisa spent two years as Director of the Federal Labor Business Forum, handling external relations and business affairs. Immediately prior to that, she served as the Director of Business Development at the Lowy Institute. Lisa spent six years with the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) and Progressive Policy Institute in Washington DC where she was a Senior Adviser on trade policy and was also responsible for external relations with the corporate community and non-profit foundations. She was instrumental in helping establish political relationships for Australia with regard to the US/Australia Free Trade Agreement. Prior to the DLC, she served at the Australian Embassy in Washington working on US Congressional Relations and trade issues. Lisa is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles (political science and international relations) and serves on the Board of Directors of the Johnny Warren Foundation and the organising committee for the Steve Waugh Foundation.

Prof Tony Peacock**Chief Executive
Cooperative Research Centres Association**

Professor Tony Peacock is the Chief Executive of the Cooperative Research Centres Association. Tony was the Chief Executive of the Invasive Animals CRC from 2005 and the Pest Animal Control CRC from 2001. He was Managing Director of the Pig R&D Corporation from 1996-2001. Tony is a passionate advocate for applied research and was the 2010 winner of the Australian Government Eureka Prize for Promoting the Public Understanding of Science. He has a high media profile with regular spots on ABC radio speaking on innovation. A reproductive scientist by training, Tony has worked at the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne and Saskatchewan. He has served on the Board of a number of start-up biotechnology companies, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra. His current research interests are in science communication, research leadership and effective innovation systems.

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP**Minister for Fair Trading
NSW Government**

The Hon Anthony Roberts MP is the NSW Minister for Fair Trading and is working to ensure markets in NSW prosper through empowering consumers and enabling business. Prior to becoming the Member for Lane Cove, he was Liberal Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lane Cove Municipal Council. Anthony was also a proud member of the Australian Army Reserve and adviser to Prime Minister John Howard.

**The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP****Deputy Premier
NSW Government**

The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP is the NSW Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services. Andrew was first elected into Parliament as the Nationals Member for Oxley on March 27th 1999 and was elected Leader of the NSW Nationals in March 2003. Following the NSW Liberals & Nationals election win on March 26th 2011, Andrew was sworn in as Deputy Premier and took on his Ministerial responsibilities. Andrew was born in 1960, growing up in Brisbane before moving with his family to Grafton. A keen surfer and committed father of six, Andrew and his wife Cathy are proud residents of Wauchope on the NSW North Coast. Andrew believes in the importance of family and a fair go for all. As the Deputy Premier, Andrew is dedicated to bringing common sense back into how our State is governed. As the Leader of the NSW Nationals, he is the proud leader of the only party that was formed solely to represent people living outside the major cities. Prior to entering Parliament Andrew obtained a Bachelor of Business and a master in Business Administration, and has also worked as an employment agency manager. Andrew's commitment to his community has been exemplified through his involvement in community organisations such as Rotary, Lions, Chambers of Commerce and his church.

Dr Keith Suter**Managing Director
Global Directions think tank
Foreign Affairs Editor, Channel 7 Sunrise**

Dr Keith Suter is an economic and social commentator, strategic planner, author and broadcaster. As a broadcaster, he appears on

Australian radio an average of once per day. He is the TV Channel 7 *Sunrise* foreign affairs editor appearing on weekday mornings. He is also a foreign policy analyst for *Sky TV Australia*, which also broadcasts to New Zealand. He is also Director of Studies, International Law Association (Australian Branch) and was for many years the Chair of the Environment Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has been a member of the international think tank The Club of Rome since 1993. In 1986: International Year of Peace, he was awarded the Australian Government's Peace Medal. In 1994, he was voted "Australian Communicator of the Year".

**The Hon. Lindsay Tanner
Vice-Chancellor's Fellow
Victoria University**

Lindsay Tanner practised as a lawyer then served as Victorian Secretary of the Federated Clerks Union before entering Federal Parliament in 1993. He held a variety of front-bench portfolio responsibilities, including Transport, Finance and Communications before serving as the Federal Minister for Finance and Deregulation from 2007 to 2010. Lindsay Tanner was a member of the fabled "Gang of Four" at the centre of the Rudd Government and through the Global Financial Crisis. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience across a very broad range of subjects. He was widely regarded as one of the Government's strongest economic thinkers and is widely respected by industry leaders and economic analysts. Lindsay Tanner's vast sectoral knowledge includes transport, communications, infrastructure, finance, manufacturing, health insurance, and government/ bureaucracy. His diverse subject knowledge covers the areas of economics, environmental issues, social



relationships, media (books published on all of these) and international politics. He has expertise in industrial relations, having spent six years as a union leader and with his involvement in these issues as a politician. As well as a successful political career, Lindsay Tanner has written extensively on economic and political issues, including four published books. He is the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at Victoria University and is an Adjunct Professor at the University. In this role he contributes as a leader in research and knowledge transfer in the area of economic, industry and social analysis, working alongside researchers in relevant faculties, research centres and institutes, as well as industry and government. He is currently employed as special advisor at Lazard (corporate advisory firm specialising in mergers and acquisitions, restructures and capital-raising). Lindsay Tanner is an accomplished speaker who was renowned for his parliamentary performances. He has Master of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from Melbourne University, reads and speaks Greek, and is the number one ticket holder at the Essendon Football Club.

Dr Ian Watt AO

Secretary

Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet

Dr Watt was appointed as Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet from 5 September 2011. Previously, Dr Watt was Secretary of the Department of Defence from 31 August 2009 to 4 September 2011. From 18 January 2002 to 30 August 2009, Dr Watt was Secretary of the Department of Finance and Deregulation (formerly the Department of Finance and Administration). He became the longest serving Finance Secretary in April 2009.

From March 2001 to 17 January 2002, he was Secretary of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. Prior to that, he was Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Executive Coordinator of the Economic, Industry and Resources Policy Group until March 2001. Dr Watt was First Assistant Secretary of Economic Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, between March 1994 and November 1996. Prior to that, he was Minister (Economic) at the Embassy of Australia in Washington for two-and-a-half years. Dr Watt completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School from September to November 1999. Dr Watt is the former chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Working Party of Senior Budget Officials, and also the former chair of the OECD Asian Senior Budget Officials. In June 2008, Dr Watt was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. In 2009, Dr Watt was the recipient of La Trobe University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Mr Lee White

Executive General Manager – Members The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia

Lee is the Executive General Manager – Members at The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. In this role he has responsibility for leading policy and practice developments across all areas of the accounting profession including financial reporting, auditing, superannuation, taxation and financial planning. He is formerly the ASIC Chief Accountant and an experienced audit practitioner in the public and private sectors. As Chief Accountant, he was directly involved in the introduction of



international accounting standards into Australia in 2005 and the creation of audit oversight programme. Lee has been a member of the Australian Financial Reporting Council (the oversight authority of standard setting in Australia) and the Australian member of both international regulatory accounting groups IOSCO and IFIAR. He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a member of the Institute of Company Directors. Lee is also currently working on a range of projects intended to improve regulatory frameworks in a number of ASEAN countries.

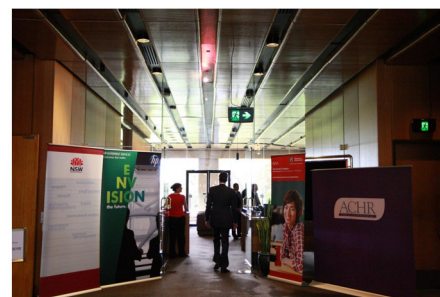
Dr Peter Woodgate

Chief Executive Officer

**Cooperative Research Centre for
Spatial Information**

Peter has been the CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI) since 2003. The CRCSI operates across Australia and New Zealand and has 110 partners investing in advanced capabilities for improving the use of global navigation satellite systems, satellite and airborne image analysis and the use of spatial data. Peter is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Digital Earth, Director of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network, Board member of the UNESCO World Heritage International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage in China, foundation Chairman of the Global Spatial Network for Networks and Chairman of the Research Committee of UNESCO's Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere Reserve. He has a Doctorate in Business Administration from RMIT University, a Master of Applied Science from the University of New South Wales and a Degree in Forest Science from the University of Melbourne.

SPONSORS PROFILES



The Australian Centre for Health Research's vision is for an open and receptive health Sector, in which important issues affecting the delivery of health and healthcare to Australians are considered from a broad range of perspectives. This will contribute to a healthy Australia whose citizens receive world-leading, affordable healthcare from an efficient and effective mix of the public and private healthcare sectors.

The ACHR was established to fill a gap in the health environment. In establishing the Centre, we were aware that there was no organisation which existed specifically to raise the level of public discussion on health issues, which had a commitment to the private sector within the context of the Australian dual public and private system. We seek to have sensible, non-ideological positions become part of the continuous health debate with a determination to have sensible policies adopted.

The ACHR's current supporters include representative organisations from the health sector including health funds, aged care, private hospitals, the Pharmacy Guild and Dental Association and those interested in improving the health landscape in Australia.

In recent years the ACHR has produced papers in the areas of connected health care, risk equalisation in health, pharmacogenomics, the impact and cost of health sector regulation, structural barriers to reform of the Australian health system and lessons for the Medicare system. Each of these papers has received useful public interest and assisted in informing the health dialogue in Australia.

Future projects which the ACHR is currently undertaking include a further workshop on connected care, a research paper into productivity in the health sector, electronic health research and discussion, and other events focused on promoting discussion in the health area.

www.achr.com.au



Australian Unity is a national healthcare, financial services and retirement living organisation providing services to more than 560,000 Australians, including some 280,000 members nationwide. The company employs more than 1,500 staff nationally.

Australian Unity's history as a trusted mutual organisation dates back more than 170 years. It has grown organically—by continually evolving and providing the services and products needed by the communities it serves—as well as through successful strategic mergers and diversification into new business activities.

Australian Unity is about enhancing wellbeing—through the financial security led by our financial advisers and developed by our investments specialists, to the support and knowledge to stay well and live longer delivered by the healthcare team, to the secure positive communities provided by our Retirement Living services.

A prime example of our passion for wellbeing is the award-winning Australian Unity Wellbeing Index, which has surveyed more than 50,000 Australians on their satisfaction with their lives and life in Australia.

Australian Unity is also committed to community contribution, with the establishment of the Australian Unity Foundation in 2006 as part of our community engagement strategy. The foundation donates grants to several charities, with Australian Unity distributing one percent of pre-tax profit to the foundation each year.

At Australian Unity, we are proud of our past and enthusiastic about our future. We believe that our members should be the healthiest and most prosperous they can be. Their wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.

www.australianunity.com.au



GAP is a not-for-profit public policy network based in Sydney that is comprised of government, industry, academia and community leaders across Australia and around the world. Established in 2000, GAP specialises in new approaches to public policy development and the facilitation of government / industry / community interactions on the most pressing social, economic and structural issues and challenges across a broad range of Australian economic sectors.

Through its pioneering '*Second Track*' Process programme of initiatives, GAP seeks to foster links between community, government and academia to streamline the process of 'fast-tracking' solutions to key issues, increase stakeholder participation in policy formation and decision making, and develop novel, cross-disciplinary approaches to regulatory problems by engaging key stakeholders in high-level discussions and research.

GAP's diverse initiatives and ventures include long-term programmes and one-off projects in regulation and public policy, industry policy, healthcare, knowledge capital, innovation, information and communication technology, security & privacy, sustainability & climate change, education, deliberative democracy, and philanthropy & social investment, to name a few.

GAP runs national and international conferences, multidisciplinary forums and executive roundtables, coordinates community & stakeholder research projects and feasibility studies, and oversees pilot projects to trial new business ideas. GAP's online think-tank, Open Forum, is a well-established online platform with an extensive community network, uniquely positioned to attract and engage the target audience and informed contributions.

GAP's partners include Federal and State governments, major corporate enterprises and industry bodies. Every dollar invested by government in GAP initiatives leverages two dollars from the private sector.

www.globalaccesspartners.org



HP is a truly global corporation, doing business in approximately 170 countries and creating technology that positively impacts individuals and businesses all across the globe. Doctors in Norway are providing up-to-the-second, life-saving care to their patients with HP systems that are always on and always connected. In Canada, a non-profit organisation is using HP cloud computing technology to decrease the amount of time it takes to trace and remove potentially harmful food products from the supply chain once a recall has been issued.

Technology has made our lives better today, but that is nothing compared to what it will do for us in the future. At HP we believe technology can create new possibilities for people around the world—from high school students and soccer moms to budding entrepreneurs, government officials, and senior executives. We are the largest IT company on the planet, and we are committed to doing what we can to deliver that future.

We will listen to our customers to understand their needs and collaborate with them to discover solutions. Where others see challenges, we see opportunities. So we will never stop exploring. We will never stop at impossible. And we can't wait to show you what we think of next.

www.hp.com



**The Institute of
Chartered Accountants
in Australia**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (the Institute) is the professional body representing Chartered Accountants in Australia.

Our reach extends to more than 67,000 of today's and tomorrow's business leaders, representing more than 55,000 Chartered Accountants and 12,000 of Australia's best accounting graduates currently enrolled in our world-class Chartered Accountants postgraduate program.

Our members work in diverse roles across commerce and industry, academia, government and public practice throughout Australia and in 109 countries around the world.

We aim to lead the profession by delivering visionary leadership projects, setting the benchmark for the highest ethical, professional and educational standards, and enhancing and promoting the Chartered Accountants brand. We also represent the interests of members to government, industry, academia and the general public by engaging our membership and local and international bodies on public policy, government legislation and regulatory issues.

The Institute can leverage advantages for its members as a founding member of the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), an international accounting coalition formed by the world's premier accounting bodies. With a membership of over 800,000, the GAA promotes quality professional services, shares information, and collaborates on international accounting issues.

Established in 1928, the Institute is constituted by Royal Charter.

www.charteredaccountants.com.au



**Trade &
Investment**

The NSW Trade & Investment works with companies and industries doing business in Sydney and New South Wales.

In these challenging times, Sydney remains an attractive location to build business in the Asia Pacific. Our stable political environment, resilient economy and relaxed lifestyle make Sydney the ideal choice for those planning on long-term success.

NSW is Australia's leading manufacturing and services state, with the lion's share of finance and insurance, property and business services, communications and manufacturing. Companies choose NSW over other locations because of its stable and diverse economy, sound regulatory environment, its pool of highly skilled labour, world class infrastructure, and access to Asia Pacific markets.

Key industry sectors in NSW are advanced manufacturing, agri-food, creative industries, defence and aerospace, finance, insurance and business services, ICT, mining, and transport and logistics.

The NSW Trade & Investment works with companies in these sectors and all industries. The Department drives sustainable economic growth in NSW by working with and supporting the vast range of businesses and industries across the State to advance investment, encourage innovation, and build the capacity for improvements across all industry sectors.

The NSW Trade & Investment delivers a range of services and programs to assist companies at each stage of an investment project.

Research is pivotal for unlocking the State's intellectual capital, as well as strengthening the competitiveness, productivity and innovative capacity of NSW. Significant work has been undertaken to align research investments with industry and economy wide needs. To support this, the Department conducts a range of innovation and research activities designed to create an environment that supports innovation across the economy, as well as to improve capacity and increase investment.

www.business.nsw.gov.au



Initiated by Global Access Partners (GAP) in July 2007, Open Forum is an independent, interactive web 2.0 community focused on the issues which matter to Australian public policy debate.

Our community of bloggers and readers includes people of all ages, from all over Australia and from all political spheres. Open Forum's network features senior business executives, government policy makers, academics, thought leaders and community advocates, as well as interested private citizens.

Access to Open Forum is free and users can login to the site to post comments and blogs.

Open Forum is staunchly non-partisan. We believe this independence is fundamental to the success of any policy development forum. Our user-generated content allows us to explore areas which are of relevance to the regulatory process, track citizen sentiment around particular issues and use these as the basis for briefing notes and recommendations to government agencies.

Open Forum's list of clients and collaborators includes: Department of Broadband Communications & the Digital Economy, Productivity Commission, Attorney-General's Department, Australian Business Foundation, Lenovo, MBF Foundation, Australian Unity, Australian Centre for Health Research (ACHR), Red Cross Australia, Australian Social Innovation Exchange (ASIX) and University of Sydney Department of Media & Communications.

We are delighted to provide a facility to continue the conversations and build on the ideas from the National Economic Review: Australia's Annual Growth Summit 2011. Check our site for keynote speeches, related blogs, articles and updates on the outcomes from the Summit.

www.openforum.com.au



LIST OF DELEGATES

Mr Brett Ackroyd

Chief Operating Officer
International Centre for
Complex Project Management

Mr Shaun Bagley

Assistant Director
Legislative Review Branch
Department of Finance & Deregulation

Mr James Bangay

General Manager, ROAMES
Ergon Energy

Mr Peter Bannister

Managing Director
Sine lactura Pty Limited

Prof Stephen Bartos

Director
Sapere Research Group

The Hon. Neil Batt AO

Executive Director
Australian Centre for Health Research

Ms Karla Bell

Founder/ Vice President of
Government Affairs
Carbonflow, Inc

Mr Alan Bennett

Managing Director & Vice President
HP Enterprise Services, South Pacific

Ms Wiebke Benze

Managing Director
HydroCon Australasia

Mr Keith Besgrove

First Assistant Secretary
Digital Economy Services Division
Department of Broadband,
Communications & the Digital Economy

Mr Mark Bezzina

Managing Director
StanCert

Prof Bob Birrell

Co-director, Centre for
Population & Urban Research
Reader in Sociology
Monash University

Ms Olga Bodrova

Senior Research Analyst
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Assistant to Chairman
Australian Unity

Mr David Booker

Private Client Manager
NAB Private Wealth

Mrs Nan Bosler

President
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Computer Clubs Association

Mr William Bourke

National Convenor
Stable Population Party

**Ms Jessica Brown**

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Mr Allan Burdekin

Director Industry Marketing
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Mr Alan Castleman

Chairman
Australian Unity

Mr Jason Clout

Banking Writer
Australian Financial Review

Mr Robert Crompton

Executive Director
Information City

Mr Murray D'Almeida

Chairman
Institute of Business Leaders

Mr Khai Dang

Partner
Blake Dawson

Ms Sophie Dawson

Partner
Blake Dawson

Mr Chris Drummer

General Manager
Corporate & Public Affairs
I-Med Network

Mr Ian Dunlop

Chairman
Safe Climate Australia

Mr Martin Duursma

VP Citrix Labs & CTO Office Chair
Citrix Systems

Mr Peter Ekstein

Investor in Resource
Companies & Clean Tech

Mr Timothy Fawcett

General Manager
Government Affairs & Policy
Cisco Systems

Mr Rob Forsyth

MD Asia Pacific
Sophos

Mr Peter Fritz AM

Chair Australian Government Consultative
Committee on Knowledge Capital (AGCCKC)
Group Managing Director,
TCG Group & Global Access Partners

Mr Catherine Fritz-Kalish

General Manager
Global Access Partners

Mr Rob Gell

Director, World Wind Pty Ltd
President, Greening Australia Ltd

Mr Michael Gill

Director
Internet Business Solutions Group
Cisco Systems

Dr Stan Goldstein

Medical Director
BUPA Australia Group

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Mr Deyan Grujovic**Dr James Guthrie**

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The Institute of Chartered
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Mr Stephen Hayes

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Program Director
First 5000

Mr Martin Kaldor

Director
Shearwater Solutions

Mr James Kelaher

Director
SmartNet

Mr Sundeep Khisty

APJ - Practice Principal
CEMS IMOD - ITO
HP Enterprise Services

Ms Julie King

Manager, Strategy Policy & Reporting
NSW Department of Finance & Services

Mr Sumeet Kumar

APAC Executive General Manager
Salmat

Mr Simon Kwan

General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Policy
Australian Computer Society

**Dr Michael Legg**

President
Health Informatics Society of Australia

Mr Robert Lippiatt

Executive Director
SPC Consulting Group

Prof Joseph Lo Bianco

Professor of Language & Literacy
EducationMelbourne Graduate
School of Education

Ms Eleanor Mak

Principal
Venturenauts

Mr Tim Mason

SkyNews

Mr David Masters

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Government & Defence Industry, Australia
HP Enterprise Services

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Sciences, University of Canberra

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Managing Director
Social innovation in Western Australia

Mr Glenn McDowell

Director
Johnny Warren Football Foundation

Dr Susan Merrell

Media Observer

Ms Lisa Middlebrook

Executive Manager
Strategy & Policy
Global Access Partners

Mr Darren Moffatt

Managing Director
Seniors First

Mr Tim Molloy

General Manager - Online
MYOB

Mr David Murray

National Leader
Deloitte

Ms Xin Yi Oh

Families, Housing, Community Services
& Indigenous Affairs Branch
Social Policy Division, Budget Group
Department of Finance & Deregulation

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Mr Christopher Pearson

Columnist
The Australian

Mr Victor Perton

Commissioner to the Americas
State Government of Victoria (Australia)

Ms Olivia Porter

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Partner
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Mr Alok Ralhan

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NSW Department of Trade & Investment
Regional Infrastructure & Services

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NSW Minister for Fair Trading

The Hon. Eric Roozendaal MLC

Member
NSW Legislative Council

Ms Sally Rose

Senior Reporter
CFO Magazine

The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP

Federal Member for Berowra

Ms Olga Sawtell

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Centre for
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The Hon. Carl Scully

Principal
Evans & Pecks

Ms Alison Sheehy

Events & Sponsorship Executive
New South Wales
Australian Institute of Company Directors

Ms Deena Shiff

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Minister for Regional Infrastructure & Services
NSW Government

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Managing Director
Global Directions think tank
Foreign Affairs Editor, Channel 7 *Sunrise*

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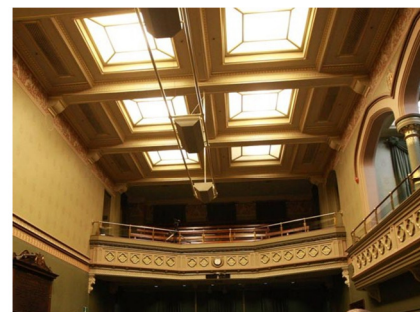
Dr Katharine Woodthorpe

Chief Executive
AVCAL

Mr Christopher Zinn

Media Spokesperson
Choice

IN THE MEDIA



TRANSCRIPTS FROM THE SUMMIT

- ▶ **Leaders gather for Population Summit** - by Lisa Middlebrook;
www.openforum.com.au/content/gap-task-force-programme
- ▶ **Population strategy cannot be viewed in isolation** - by the Hon. Anthony Roberts;
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- ▶ **NSW Government: Committed to addressing the challenges posed by demographic trends** - by the Hon. Andrew Stoner; www.openforum.com.au/content/nsw-government-committed-addressing-challenges-posed-demographic-trends
- ▶ **Immigration: An inappropriate response to the ageing of Australia's population** - by Prof Bob Birrell; <http://openforum.com.au/content/immigration-inappropriate-response-ageing-australia%E2%80%99s-population>
- ▶ **Healthcare: We all have to play a major role** - by Alan Castleman;
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- ▶ **There is a spatial revolution coming** - by Dr Peter Woodgate;
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- ▶ **Strengthening Australia's Infrastructure** – Dr Ian Watt;
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- ▶ **Invest in health now for a better future** - by Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO;
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- ▶ **Getting smart about energy infrastructure** - by James Bangay;
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- ▶ **Australia's Population debate: an international perspective** - by Dr Keith Suter;
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- ▶ **The Real Productivity Paradox** - by Alan Bennett; <http://openforum.com.au/content/real-productivity-paradox>
- ▶ **Improving the level of debate about population and innovation** - by Prof Tony Peacock;
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- ▶ **Changing Gear: Preparing for a different world** - by the Hon. Lindsay Tanner;
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- ▶ **The Hon. Andrew Stoner, NSW Deputy Premier: 16 September 2011 Media Release,**
https://www.business.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/15586/rel_stoner_20110916_iap.pdf
- ▶ **Stoner appoints Wightwick head of Digital Economy taskforce,**
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- ▶ **Australia needs an open dialogue on population issues:** Dr Keith Suter on 702 ABC Sydney;
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- ▶ **Shaping a vision for the future** - by Peter Fritz AM; <http://openforum.com.au/content/shaping-vision-future>
- ▶ **The changing nature of work: Australian National Telework Week** - Tim Fawcett;
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- ▶ **Change attitude rather than limit population** - by Jessica Brown;
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- ▶ **Growing population is just an SME opportunity** - by Jason Clout;
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- ▶ **Public transport for a growing population: can high-tech tools help?** - by Dr Peter Vitartas;
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- ▶ **Stable population is Australia's sustainable choice** - by William Bourke;
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