

5<sup>th</sup> September 2007



AUSTRALIAN  
LEADERSHIP RETREAT

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **BUSINESS COMMUNITY READY FOR MORE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE WITH POLITICAL LEADERSHIP**

Australia's business community was ready to undertake more action on climate change if political leadership went beyond political one-liners and talkfests, the Chairman of the Australian Davos Connection, Mr. Michael Roux, said today.

He said Australia could regain some of its lost ground on the world stage if it took initiatives now in setting goals on climate change for both business and the community.

"Australians want to see goals set for climate change, both long term and short term, so they can have some means of seeing the difference they are making and provide practical ways of measuring and changing their carbon footprints," he said.

Mr. Roux was talking following the two-day Australian Leadership Retreat of more than 200 international and national business, government, academic, trade union and community leaders under the banner of the World Economic Forum and the Australian Davos Connection. Many of the leaders will play key roles in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum starting in Sydney this week.

"It is clear that an important and dramatic change has taken place in Australia in the past 12 months with the approach to climate change," he said.

"The Australian business community is already galvanised, taking action and ready to take more action on climate change, more so than many of its international counterparts.

"The sense of urgency is palpable. We are looking to government now to intensify and accelerate Australia's response, along with a mindset shift and a concerted effort to progress many different actions.

"Political one-liners are not the solution, nor are talkfests. What Australians want now is leadership with a clear long-term policy framework and practical tools with which to tackle climate change. This is critical because climate change also presents us with new business opportunities, not just problems."

Although it is widely held that there is no 'silver bullet' to the issue, Mr. Roux said there was a need for broad, far-reaching change, well beyond single initiatives, such as trading carbon credits on a global scale and locally solar panels on schools. The change also must embrace the broader community, so they can take part in the issue and tackle climate change in practical ways and education.

"The growing awareness of global warming by Australians and their willingness to take action places our government in what some of its international counterparts might regard as an enviable position," he said.

### **Further information:**

**Michael Roux, Chairman of Australian Davos Connection, T (03) 9664 1964**

**or**

**Caroline Johnston, Australian Davos Connection, T 03 9664 1964 or 0419 570 296**