

The Prime Minister's Economic Forum

May 2012

On the 4 May 2012, Prime Minister Julia Gillard launched the Prime Minister's Economic Forum. The Forum, which will be held in Brisbane on the 12 – 13 June, will focus on the challenges of structural transition facing the Australian economy.

The forum will be co-hosted by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, Wayne Swan. It will bring together 150 representatives from business, industry bodies, unions and community organisations, as well as state and territory governments.

Topics covered at the Forum will include:

- Australia in the Asian Century;
- the high Australian dollar and its impact;
- skills and education;
- investment in productive infrastructure;
- competition and deregulation agenda; and
- innovation and collaboration.

The Forum will also include discussion of the economic opportunities presented by previously announced major public policy reforms, including:

- [the clean energy package](#);
- [the National Broadband Network](#);
- [skills and tax reform](#); and
- [competitiveness and productivity](#)

Policy Context

The forum will be an opportunity to further develop some of the Government's existing economic policy priorities.

In April of this year, the Government held its first [COAG Business Advisory Forum](#), a forum aimed at further the Government's deregulation agenda through cooperation between COAG and the business sector.

The Government has also commissioned an "Australia in the Asian Century" White Paper, to consider the likely economic and strategic changes in the region and what more can be done to position Australia for the Asian Century. The White Paper is also due for release in June.

The announcement of the Prime Minister's Economic Forum comes amid significant concerns over the impact of the high Australian dollar on the Australian economy, and just days after the Reserve Bank of Australia announced a lowering the cash rate by 50 basis points to 3.75 per cent to ease Australia's financial conditions.

More details of the Forum will be announced in the coming weeks.