

The Prime Minister's Economic Forum

June 2012

On Friday 4 May 2012, Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced that she would host an economic forum in Brisbane on 12-13 June, called the Prime Minister's Economic Forum.

The Forum will be co-hosted by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and will bring together 130 representatives from business, industry bodies, unions and community organisations, as well as state and territory governments.

The Forum will focus on the challenges of structural transition facing the Australian economy, and 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](#)

The Prime Minister's press release following the announcement of the Forum's agenda is available [here](#).

Forum Structure

The Prime Minister will commence proceedings with a keynote address to a dinner on Tuesday 12 May. This address will focus on Australia's role in the global economy, and in particular in the Asian Century.

The Economic Forum on 13 June will be divided into five sessions:

- *Australia's Patchwork Economy and the High Dollar:* opened by Reserve Bank of Australia Governor Glenn Stevens and the Deputy Prime Minister Wayne Swan.
- *Economic Transformation: Innovation and Collaboration:* Opened by the Minister for Industry and Innovation Greg Combet.
- *Investment in Productive Infrastructure:* opened by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese.
- *Building the Workforce: Skills and Education:* opened by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research Chris Evans.
- *Competition and Deregulation Reform Agenda:* opened by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation Penny Wong.

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 Forum comes amid significant concern over the impact of the high Australian dollar on the Australian economy, and follows the Reserve Bank of Australia's decisions to lower the cash rate two months in a row, in May and June.

Participants

In alphabetical order by surname.

The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Mr James Ayles
General Manager of Petrol and Thomas Dux
Woolworths

The Honourable Ted Baillieu MP
Premier of Victoria

Dr Ken Baker
Chief Executive, National Disability Services
Limited

Mr Gary Banks AO
Chairman, Productivity Commission

Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer
Australian Capital Territory

Mr Paul Bastian
National Secretary, Australian Manufacturing
Workers Union

Mr Philip Binns
Vice-President and General Manager,
Spectroscopy Business, Agilent Technologies

Mr James Bond
President, Australian Services Roundtable

Mr Ken Brinsden
Managing Director, Atlas Iron

Mr Philip Bullock
Chair, Skills Australia

Ms Kate Burleigh
Managing Director, Intel Australia

Mr Dave Buttner
Director and Executive Vice President,
Toyota

Ms Suzanne Campbell
CEO, Australian Information Industry
Association

Mr Michael Carey
Vice President Finance Australia/Commercial
Finance, Shell

Mr Mark Carnegie
CEO, MH Carnegie & Co Pty Ltd

Mr Leon Carter
National Secretary, Finance Sector Union

Mr Mike Carter (Forum PM only)
Executive Vice President, QR National

Mr Stephen Cartwright
CEO, NSW Business Chamber

Ms Kasy Chambers
Executive Director, Anglicare Australia

Professor Ian Chubb
Chief Scientist

Dr Megan Clark
Chief Executive, CSIRO

Mr John Colvin
CEO, Australian Institute of Company
Directors



The Honourable Greg Combet AM MP
Minister for Climate Change & Energy
Efficiency and Minister for Industry and
Innovation

Ms Ellie Comerford
President and CEO, Genworth

Mr Blair Comley PSM
Secretary, Department of Climate Change and
Energy Efficiency

Mr Everald Compton AM
Chairman, Advisory Panel on Positive Ageing

Mr Paddy Crumlin
National Secretary, Maritime Union of
Australia

Professor Glyn Davis AC
Vice Chancellor, University of Melbourne

Mr Joe De Bruyn
Secretary, Shop, Distributive and Allied
Employees Association

Mr John Denton
Partner and CEO, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Mr Mike Devereux (Forum only)
Chairman and Managing Director, GM Holden

Dr John Edwards
Board Member, Reserve Bank of Australia

The Honourable Dr Craig Emerson MP
Minister for Trade and Competitiveness

Mr Greg Evans
Director, Economic and Industry Policy, ACCI

Dr Bronwyn Evans
Chair, the Medical Technology Association of
Australia

Senator the Honourable Chris Evans
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science
and Research

Professor Robert Fitzgerald AM
Chair, Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits
Commission Advisory Board

Ms Nadine Flood
National Secretary, Community and Public
Sector Union

Mr Duncan Fraser
Vice President, National Farmers' Federation

Mr Elmer Funke Kupper
CEO and Managing Director, ASX

Mr Angelo Gavrielatos
Federal President, Australian Education Union

The Honourable Lara Giddings MP
Premier of Tasmania

The Honourable Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister of Australia

Dr Cassandra Goldie
CEO, Australian Council of Social Service

Mr Shane Goodwin
Managing Director, Housing Industry
Association

Mr Bob Graziano
President and CEO, Ford Australia

Mr Jim Hallion
Chief Executive, Department of the Premier
and Cabinet South Australia

Mr Wilhelm Harnisch
Chief Executive Officer, Master Builders
Association

Mr Peter Harris
Secretary, Department of Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy

Ms Lin Hatfield Dodds
National Director, Uniting Care Australia

Mr Joseph Healy (Forum only)
Group Executive Business Banking, NAB Group

Mr Lance Hockridge (Dinner & Forum AM)
CEO and Managing Director, QR National

Mr Chris Jordan
Chairman, Board of Taxation

Mr Vipin Kalra
Country Manager (Australia), Visa Asia Pacific

Mr George Kapitelli (Dinner only)
CFO, GM Holden



Mr Haniff Kassim
Chairman, AuzCorp

Ms Gail Kelly (Forum only)
CEO and Managing Director, Westpac

Mr David Knox
CEO and Managing Director, Santos

Ms Linda Lavarch
Chair, Not-for-Profit Sector Reform Council

Mr Nick Leeder
Managing Director, Google Australia

Felicity-Ann Lewis
Vice President, Australian Local Government
Association

Ms Amanda Lynch
Deputy Chair, Council of Small Business of
Australia

Mr Tim Lyons
Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of
Trade Unions

Mr James MacKenzie
Chairman, Mirvac

Professor the Honourable Stephen Martin
Chief Executive Officer, Committee for
Economic Development of Australia

Mr Simon McKeon
Executive Chairman Macquarie Group –
Melbourne, Office and Chairman CSIRO
Macquarie Group

Mr Martin McLysaght
Chief Financial Officer, McDonalds Australia

Mr Peter McMullin
President, Victorian Employers' Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Dr Doug McTaggart
Member, COAG Reform Council

Dr Jim Minifie
Program Director, Productivity Growth,
Grattan Institute

Mr Ian Moore
Panel Member, Clean Energy Finance
Corporation Expert Review

Mr Mike Mrdak
Secretary, Department of Infrastructure and
Transport

Mr Bob Nanva
National Secretary, Australian Rail, Tram and
Bus Workers Union

Mr Sankar Narayan
Chief Financial Officer, Virgin Blue Airlines

Dr Lisa O'Brien
CEO, Smith Family

Mr Michael O'Connor
National Secretary, Construction, Forestry,
Mining and Energy Union

Dr Tim Oldham
Corporate VP and President, Asia Pacific,
Hospira

Mr David Oliver
National Secretary, Australian Council of
Trade Unions

Ms Michele O'Neil
National Secretary, Textile, Clothing and
Footwear Union of Australia

Ms Margaret Osmond
Chief Executive Officer, Australian National
Retailers' Association

Dr Martin Parkinson PSM
Secretary, Department of the Treasury

Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM
Secretary, Department of Education,
Employment and Workplace Relations

Mr James Pearson
CEO, Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Western Australia

Mr David Peever
Managing Director (Australia), Rio Tinto

Mr Paul Richardson
Assistant National Secretary, National Union
of Workers

Ms Heather Ridout
Board Member, Reserve Bank of Australia



The Honourable Bernie Ripoll MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

Mr Paul Robertson AM
Chairman, Social Ventures Australia

Dr Don Russell
Secretary, Department of Industry,
Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary
Education

Mr Steve Sargent
President and CEO, GE Australia and NZ

Dr Chris Sarra
Executive, Stronger Smarter

Mr Jason Scott
Managing Director – News Queensland, News
Limited

Dr Brendan Shaw
Chief Executive, Medicines Australia

Mr Tony Shepherd
President, Business Council of Australia

Dr Peter Shergold AC
Chair, NCVER

Ms Helen Silver
Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Victoria

Mr Rod Sims
Chairman, ACCC

Mr David Smith
National Secretary, Australian Services Union

Dr Heather Smith (Dinner only)
Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign
Affairs and Trade

Ms Megan Smithies
Director-General, ACT Treasury

Mr Andrew Stevens (Dinner & Forum AM)
Managing Director, IBM Australia

Mr Glenn Stevens (Forum AM only)
Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia

Mr Ryan Stokes
CEO, Australian Capital Equity

Mr Peter Strong
Executive Director, Council of Small Business
of Australia

The Honourable Wayne Swan MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer

Mr Stephen Tait (Forum only)
CEO, Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Queensland

Mr Simon Talbot
Corporate Affairs Director, Kraft Foods
Australia and New Zealand

Ms Catherine Tanna
Executive Vice President and Managing
Director, Australia and East Asia
BG Group

Ms Louise Tarrant
National Secretary, United Voice

Mr Ian Thomas (Dinner only)
President, Boeing Australia and the South
Pacific

Mr Peter Tighe
National Secretary, Communications,
Electrical and Plumbing Union

Mr David Tune PSM
Secretary, Department of Finance and
Deregulation

Mr Hubie van Dalsen
President of Metallurgical Coal Business, BHP
Billiton

Mr Chris Walton
Chief Executive Officer, The Association of
Professional Engineers, Scientists and
Managers

Dr Ian Watt AO
Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister
and Cabinet

The Honourable Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia

Ms Jennifer Westacott
Chief Executive, Business Council of Australia

Mr Noel Williams
Dow Chemical Company (Australia)



Mr Innes Willox
Chief Executive, Australia Industry Group

Senator the Honourable Penny Wong
Minister for Finance and Deregulation

Mr Misha Zelinsky
National Economics and Policy Officer,
Australian Workers' Union

Mr Russell Zimmerman
Executive Director, Australian Retailers
Association