



**Media Statement
Friday 9 March 2007**

The Global Foundation yesterday concluded a successful *Australia Unlimited* Roundtable at Government House in Melbourne.

The Roundtable was conducted over one and a half days and involved 120 Australian and international participants from all walks of life. Discussions focused on Australia's long-term future, integrating four key themes, namely: Australian Society, Australia's Knowledge Future, Australia in the World and Australia's Sustainable National Development. The meeting built upon a year-long, Australia-wide consultation program.

The Australian Prime Minister, The Hon. John Howard and the Leader of the Opposition, The Hon. Kevin Rudd, each delivered keynote addresses to the Roundtable. Copies of their addresses may be found at <http://www.globalfoundation.org.au/events/AustraliaUnlimitedProgramIntroduction.html>

Global perspectives were provided by former World Bank President, Mr James D. Wolfensohn and Director General of the World Trade Organisation, Mr Pascal Lamy.

The outcomes of the *Australia Unlimited* Roundtable were expressed by the Secretary of The Global Foundation, Mr Steve Howard, who said:

‘There was a remarkably positive spirit evident at the Roundtable about Australia's achievements to date and its future prospects as a nation, from which we can build and grow. All agreed that citizens have a crucial role to play in shaping this future.

‘There was a seriousness of purpose in the Roundtable deliberations, and an openness and willingness to develop new paradigms for Australia’s future sustainable development, in a global context.

‘Participants agreed that Australia has an enormous opportunity to capture and fully benefit from the dramatic shifts in world power towards Asia.

‘At the same time, the Roundtable acknowledged and demonstrated by its breadth of participation that this will require a new level of cooperation between all Australians.

‘In moving forward, it will be critical to maintain our social cohesion as a nation and to have the courage to make a quantum leap in our short-term thinking about how best to equip, train and adapt ourselves, particularly indigenous and younger Australians, to this new reality.

‘This responsibility, to embrace these exciting challenges and to make the necessary changes, falls not only to successive governments of all persuasions, both Federal and State - whom were called upon to exercise even greater leadership - but to all of us as citizens of Australia, and increasingly, as citizens of the world.

‘For its part, The Global Foundation will continue to be a catalyst and activist, both in Australia, in our neighbouring region and globally, to help shape and focus dialogue and outcomes which are both aspirational and achievable’.

The Global Foundation expressed its gratitude to the Governor of Victoria and to the many sponsors and supporters of the Roundtable, including principal sponsor, The Shell Companies of Australia, for enabling the conduct of this landmark event.

The Global Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan citizens’ organization dedicated to promoting Australia’s sustainable development in a global context.

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