



Australian Government  
Department of Innovation  
Industry, Science and Research

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Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter of 30 September 2011 to the Hon Peter Beattie seeking information about the *Buy Australian at Home and Abroad* initiative and his role as the Resources Sector Supplier Envoy. Mr Beattie has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Australian Government announced the \$34.4 million *Buy Australian at Home and Abroad* initiative in its 2011–12 Budget to boost Australian industry participation in resource sector major projects. The initiative includes:

- Establishment of a Resources Sector Supplier Advisory Forum and appointment of a Resources Sector Supplier Envoy, to provide high level leadership in linking Australian suppliers to opportunities in the resources sector.
- Engagement of four Resources Sector Supplier Advocates to work with Enterprise Connect and Australian firms to increase capability and meet future demand in resources projects.
- Additional funding of \$4.0 million over four years for the Supplier Access to Major Projects program, to allow the Industry Capability Network (ICN) to work with a greater number of resources projects and increase opportunities for Australian industry by reducing search and transaction costs for buyers and suppliers.
- Funding of \$0.4 million over four years to Australian Made Campaign Limited (AMCL) to appoint a Supply Chain Adviser to more effectively link AMCL and the ICN.

The *Buy Australian at Home and Abroad* initiative builds on existing AIP policies and programs, a number of which the government also boosted through the \$19.1 million *Australian Government Procurement Statement* on 28 July 2009. Both new and existing AIP initiatives aim to improve competitiveness of Australian industry and encourage better linkages between major projects and capable Australian suppliers.

#### *Resources Sector Supplier Envoy*

The primary focus of the Resources Sector Supplier Envoy is to:

- promote Australian industry's capabilities and competitiveness to resource development projects in domestic and global markets;
- facilitate Australian industry's access to global supply chains by making representations on its behalf and leading trade visits overseas; and
- provide feedback and advice to the Government and industry on opportunities and development strategies.

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The role is a part-time position with a focus on providing high level leadership in order to “open doors” to link Australian suppliers to opportunities in the resources sector and global supply chains.

The Hon Peter Beattie was appointed on 24 August 2011 as Australia’s first Resources Sector Supplier Envoy to champion and strengthen Australian industry participation in the resources sector. Mr Beattie has been undertaking consultations with industry and other stakeholders on the implementation of *Buy Australian at Home and Abroad*. Consultations have been held in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Launceston, Darwin and Perth. Through these consultations, Mr Beattie received insights into the issues affecting the ability of manufacturers and suppliers to link into major resource projects.

As Resources Sector Supplier Envoy, Mr Beattie has indicated that he will be leading delegations on mission to Latin America in April 2012 and to Asia in late 2012 to champion Australian suppliers into global supply chains. Further information in relation to the missions will be posted on the Department’s website at:

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/Industry/BuyAustralianatHomeandAbroad>

The Envoy is in addition to the appointment of Resources Sector Supplier Advocates whose primary role is to work closely with firms to improve their capability and capacity to competitively meet the requirements of resource projects and global supply chains. Four Resources Sector Supplier Advocates are to be appointed in 2011-12.

#### *Resources Sector Supplier Advisory Forum*

A Resources Sector Supplier Advisory Forum has been established as part of the *Buy Australian at Home and Abroad* initiative to provide high level strategic leadership for linking Australian suppliers to opportunities in the resources sector. The Forum includes leaders from major resources companies, unions, suppliers, manufacturers, EPCMs and research institutions. The Resources Sector Supplier Advisory Forum is chaired by the Hon Peter Beattie as Envoy. The Forum will meet twice in the first year to discuss key strategic directions and annually thereafter. The first meeting was held in Perth on 25 November 2011 where the Forum considered the information gained during the consultations conducted by Mr Beattie and agreed to form two working groups. The working groups will engage with key industry stakeholders on priority areas for action to strengthen Australian industry participation in the resources sector.

Thank you for your interest in the *Buy Australian* initiative. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Anton  
General Manager  
Competitive Industries Branch  
Manufacturing Division

6 December 2011

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