



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STRENGTHENING WA'S TIES WITH THE WORLD

“International relations have played a vital role in the development of Western Australia and will be integral to the future growth and prosperity of our State.”



www.waliberal.org.au

Authorised by A.Cox, 2/12 Parliament Place, West Perth WA 6005.



International relations have played a vital role in the development of Western Australia and will be integral to the future growth and prosperity of our State.

Only a Liberal Government recognises the fundamental importance of international relations to broaden and diversify the WA economy. We will continue to build on our State's natural advantages to capitalise on new opportunities for economic growth in Western Australia.

Fast Facts

- WA accounts for almost half of Australia's exports, despite accounting for only 11% of the national population
- WA has a strong history of exports in mining, agriculture and the petroleum sector. Our export success stories span from shipbuilding and education services to high-end mining software. Increasingly, other sectors such as tourism and international education and science offer future opportunities.



Our Track Record

Since 2008, the Liberal-led State Government has been building on WA's historical trade relationships in mining and energy to develop new relationships across all areas of government, from tourism, education and agriculture to scientific research and conservation, as well as in the arts and sport.

Premier Colin Barnett has a long career of dealing with Governments and businesses internationally. He has been invited to address significant global forums including the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University in Houston, Texas, the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at King's College, London; Mining Indaba, the world's largest mining investment conference, in Cape Town, South Africa and hosted LNG18 in Perth as a symbol of the State's importance as a major supplier of the world's gas resources.

International Agreements

Agreements with other governments are an important part of this work. Highlights include:

- **COMESA MOU** – In January 2014, in line with its commitment to build relations in Africa, WA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) consisting of 19 African nations to share the State's expertise across mining, petroleum and agriculture, particularly in regulation and sustainability.



- **NDRC MOU** – under a 2011 MOU, the State Government has worked closely with China's peak economic policy agency the National Development and Reform Commission on trade and investment opportunities.

- **JBIC MOU** – in November 2011, the WA Government signed an MOU with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The MOU allows JBIC and WA's Department of State Development to exchange information on potential investments, to encourage JBIC's support for Japanese companies' investment activities in WA.

- **The Square Kilometre Array** - International cooperation with our partners in the Square Kilometre Array project, a global endeavour to build the world's biggest and most sensitive radio telescope. The SKA Organisation has 10 member countries - Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Australia's core site for the SKA is in the Murchison region of WA.

- **Research collaborations** between WA government and non-government agencies across areas such as biodiversity conservation and research, including Jiangsu's Institute of Botany and Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Plant Science and Herbarium Program.

Other Initiatives

Other major whole-of-government initiatives to extend WA's influence internationally have included:

- **'Western Australia Worth Sharing'**, a whole-of-government initiative aimed at providing WA producers with a platform to market their products internationally. The trademark highlights WA's clean air, blue skies and safe, high-quality produce in promoting WA to international customers.
- Supported the establishment of the **USAsia Centre at UWA**, including a funding contribution of \$3 million. The Centre was launched by Hilary Clinton in 2012 as a leading think tank on the US-Asian-Australian strategic and economic relationship.
- Provided support for **humanitarian projects in Africa** through the Global Health Alliance WA. This included donating hospital equipment and sending nursing students and staff to provide aid, including clinical practice, to those in need in Zambia, Tanzania and other areas.
- Opened a **new trade office in Singapore** and expanded our relationship, focusing on trade and investment; sporting initiatives such as the WA-Hockey Program aimed at developing Singapore's national and junior hockey teams, and; collaboration between the WA and Asian fashion industries through a partnership with the Perth Fashion Festival.
- Expanded our trade office in Jakarta.



- Established the **WA Korea Energy and Resources (WAKER) Forum** in 2012 to bring together Korean and Western Australian business leaders to discuss resource, energy and infrastructure policies and investment prospects in WA.
- Gained invaluable global exposure for Western Australia by hosting CHOGM and visits by many **international political leaders** including Her Majesty the Queen on a royal visit, former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta during AUSMIN talks in Perth 2012; and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe during his visit to Perth and the Pilbara in 2014.

Sister State Relationships

Western Australia has a number of productive Sister State relationships that have formed an important role in WA's international relations program. Since 2008, key programs have included:

- **Hyogo (Japan)** – two highly successful exchange programs: the Banshu Textile Exchange Program and the Hyogo/Perth Marathon Exchange Program.
- **Zhejiang (China)** – a wide range of economic, scientific, and cultural initiatives including: live cattle export trial; MOU in fisheries cooperation; UWA Oceans Institute collaboration with Zhejiang University, and a number of study tours and trade delegations.

- **East Java (Indonesia)** – a number of capacity-building initiatives in the areas of health (autism and audiology training/financial support), sport (sport science and strategic planning), and agriculture (women in agriculture bilateral exchange program).
- **Andhra Pradesh (India)** - The establishment of a new Sister State relationship with the Indian State of **Andhra Pradesh** to capitalise on WA's existing relationship with India and explore new trade and business opportunities in energy production and distribution, agriculture and mining services.
- In addition, this Government has worked to establish a **Sister Park relationship** between World Heritage-listed **Purnululu National Park and Danxiashan National Parks in China**, to build ties across tourism, park management and plant conservation research.



The Cocos Keeling Islands

Currently an Australian territory, a Liberal State Government will work with the Commonwealth to officially incorporate Cocos Keeling into Western Australia's geographical boundaries, and will capitalise on the islands' extensive coastline, tropical climate and proximity to Perth to transform the area into one of the State's premier holiday destinations.

This will boost our tourism economy, stimulate local jobs and further strengthen the State's reputation within Asia as a tourism destination.

Discussions with the Federal Government have commenced.

Commitment

A Liberal Government will:

- Continue to build on established and productive relationships with China, Japan and South Korea
- Continue to develop relationships with countries in South East Asia such as Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand.
- Extend relationships with countries on the Indian Ocean rim, such as India, in Africa and the Gulf States.
- Build WA Worth Sharing as a brand for Western Australia to expand new opportunities for WA products.
- Support a proposed World Trade Centre for Perth
- Negotiate with the Commonwealth for the transfer of the Cocos Islands to Western Australia.

