



MEDIA RELEASE

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MEETS AUSTRALIA PAPUA NEW GUINEA
MINISTERIAL FORUM.**

The President of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council, Mr Peter Taylor, today met in Canberra with Australian and Papua New Guinea Ministers led by their respective Foreign Ministers, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP and the Hon Ano Pala MP, for a Business Dialogue to discuss issues of importance to business in the bilateral economic relationship.

Mr Taylor jointly led a business delegation with the Vice-President of the Business Council of Papua New Guinea and the President of the PNG Branch of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council.

“The Councils see this meeting as part of ongoing engagement between business and government rather than just today’s meeting. The most effective outcomes involves continuous engagement between us during the periods between these formal meetings”, Mr Taylor said.

“We welcomed the agreement by Ministers to our proposal for the formal establishment of a bilateral committee of business and senior officials to meet regularly to create effective outcomes to business and economic development issues.

“There was an extensive discussion about:

- sovereign wealth funds;
- capacity building in the Royal Papua New Guinea Police Constabulary; and
- capacity building in the Papua New Guinea Lands Department.

“In addition we lodged a formal submission from business to Ministers which covered these issues and a range of other important topics including the proposed Economic Relations Agreement, ownership of mineral resources in Papua New Guinea, how business and government can work together to deliver improved development outcomes and help meet the Millennium Development Goals, advanced Papua New Guinea immigration and customs processing in Cairns, better handling of visas and work permits by both governments, improved access to Cairns by third country workers transiting to and from Papua New Guinea and for recreation and business purposes, the need for improvements in development and operation of Papua New Guinea’s economic infrastructure, improved passenger and air freight arrangements between Australia and Papua New Guinea, strengthening Papua New Guinea’s human resources to match future business needs and employment opportunities.”

Mr Taylor said the Council looked forward to working with its business colleagues in Papua New Guinea and with both governments to advance these and other issues through the bilateral business and officials committee and at future Ministerial Forums.

CANBERRA
11 October 2011