

MEDIA RELEASE

6 February 2008

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COUNCIL OF AUSTRALASIAN
MUSEUM DIRECTORS

Museums combine the best of science and society

Directors of Australia's leading museums welcome recent announcements by the Rudd Government, particularly its commitment to hold the Australia 2020 Summit and the Inquiry into the National Innovation System.

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The Council of Australasian Museum Directors is pleased to see that research is back on the national agenda.

The Council believes museums have a unique contribution to make in advancing the national research agenda and fostering a culture of scientific and social innovation. The collections of national significance held by museums across Australia support an impressive range of research projects, but also have enormous untapped research potential. The Council encourages the new Australian Government to make full use of the rich resources available in this area.

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

CANTERBURY MUSEUM

HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST OF NSW

HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS
AND SCIENCES (POWERHOUSE)

MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND
TE PAPA TONGAREWA

MUSEUM VICTORIA

MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

OTAGO MUSEUM AND
DISCOVERY WORLD

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

SCITECH DISCOVERY CENTRE, PERTH

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

TASMANIAN MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY

THE SOVEREIGN HILL
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

'The ability of museums to combine research with public exhibition and education programs makes them ideal partners in a national program to promote ideas and innovation,' Council Chair Margaret Anderson said today. 'Last year our member museums attracted more than 12 million visitors between them, viewing nearly 200 new exhibitions. More than 50 million also logged onto a museum website. This is an enormous audience actively pursuing ideas and information.'

Margaret Anderson believes that this next decade will be critical for many of Australia's collecting institutions, as they struggle to meet the demands of their users for access to trusted information on a huge range of topics.

'Museums are unique amongst cultural institutions in bringing together the best of research in science and the humanities and in providing a bridge between them. The exhibitions and research projects sponsored by museums are at the core of a robust culture of innovation and enquiry,' she said.

FOR FURTHER COMMENT:

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