

RESIGNATION OF EVENTS NSW CHAIRMAN JOHN O'NEILL AO

Events NSW Board members paid tribute today to the significant contribution made by Events NSW inaugural Chairman John O'Neill AO following the announcement of his resignation by Premier Kristina Keneally.

Events NSW was formally constituted in September 2007 following the compelling findings of the O'Neill reviews into events, convention, exhibition space and tourism. The first Board meeting was convened on 19 December 2007.

In particular, the Board acknowledged the achievements delivered under Mr O'Neill's direction, including:

- The establishment and delivery in 2009 of the first ever Master Events Calendar for Sydney and NSW
- That calendar, and the business events won through partnership with Business Events Sydney delivered approximately \$500m to NSW last year, and the events reached a measured press audience of almost a billion readers worldwide, and entertained more than 2 million locals (excluding New Year's Eve)
- Establishing two major new annual "anchor" events, the light festival, *Vivid Sydney*, and the food and lifestyle festival *Crave Sydney*, featuring Breakfast on the Bridge.
- Winning more than a dozen new events for the State in the last twelve months, including
 - An Australian leg of the World Rally Championship
 - Triathlon – ITU World Series, Sydney (from April 2010)
 - FIFA International FanFest, Sydney (June-July 2010)
 - Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Feb 2010)
 - Top Gear Live (annual 2009-11)
 - Socceroos v Netherlands (Oct 2009)
 - Danny Green v Roy Jones Jr Boxing (December 2009)
 - AFI Awards (from 2011)
 - IF Awards
 - Australian Open Golf Championships to 2015
 - Featuring Greg Norman through 2011
- Overseeing development of plans that will take the Calendar's contribution to the NSW economy from \$700m+ by 2015.

The Board looks forward with confidence to overseeing the delivery of these plans under the continuing strong management of CEO Geoff Parmenter and his team.