

Exciting Times

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Members of the Official Party,
Distinguished Guests, graduates, ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.
Thank you Ian for your introduction – and may I acknowledge my respect
and gratitude to you Ian Gould as a friend and former colleague for your
contribution to the minerals industry and to Australia generally.

It's an honour for me to be here to address such distinguished and capable
company.

My theme is very simple – we live in exciting times, the opportunities are
endless, we are limited only by our own vision and we must seize these
days for this and future generations of Australians and indeed the world.

During the last several years we have experienced what is only the
beginning of a long period of world economic expansion – generational
economic growth, led by China, followed by India with others in tow. It
is text book, unstoppable, unbridled economic growth on a scale never
seen before. Commodities are the big winners – hard and soft
commodities – and Australia and Australians are in “pole position” to be
involved and benefit long term. There's bound to be humps and bumps

and corrections along the way – and we are looking at one right now in the face of world credit tightening and inflationary fears – but the medium and long term direction and force are perfectly clear. In China you have the commodity quadrangle – powerful internally fuelled economic growth, massive infrastructure development, the largest urban migration in world history and increasing metals intensity of use.

So what is our response to this burgeoning demand? Industry has responded by investing heavily in the hardware and software to supply this new demand paradigm – now and forever. Our industry is also consolidating – we are in a competitive world and we need to grow, expand and add substantially and quickly to our resources bases and our financial strength to continue to supply the market. In my own Company, Oxiana Limited; we joined forces with Zinifex to create OZ Minerals – to become the third largest Australian listed diversified mining company and position ourselves in a bigger league of world players. Good synergies, good assets, strong financially, good people, great Company.

The response of Governments has been equally positive. Australian Governments recognize and understand we have serious competitive and comparative advantage in the minerals industry – we have the best people, the best technologies and the best assets in the world. They

understand our industry is a driver, a cornerstone, an engine of this economy. No better example than here in South Australia – where the Government has introduced multiple initiatives especially in exploration and training and education. And in permitting and building our Prominent Hill, the world's next best copper – gold project, the support, cooperation and encouragement we have received is unparalleled in my experience.

The Federal Government's response is very clear – commitment to a highly internationally competitive Australian economy. 3 of our key concerns in the industry are Infrastructure, declining mineral inventories and shortage of people. In each case there have been positive initiatives – the establishment of Infrastructure Australia, the commitment to a “flow through share” scheme which will provide further funding for the small but so vital junior exploration companies and the promise of an education revolution – which must be music to the ears of everyone here.

But we need to do more – collectively and individually, privately and publicly – especially when it comes to education, training and development – of our professional, technical, skilled and operational workforce. There are few greater things we can do as a society, as an individual, as a parent or grandparent, than to invest heavily in education

– the rewards are immeasurable. I practice it personally and it keeps me poor; and I urge our Company, our Board, our CEO and our executives to do the same in OZ.

We have a chronic shortage of people in our industry now – and according to studies commissioned by the Minerals Council – it will get worse. Employment growth in minerals will be twice the national average growth rate out to 2020. Employment will increase by 70% over current levels – and I’m sure it’s been underestimated; it will be closer to double.

So Chancellor, trying to pull all that together, we have the perfect storm – a generation of economic growth on a scale never seen before, commodities the big winners, Australia and Australians in position ‘A’ to further capitalise and a largely supportive political, regulatory and bureaucratic environment. This presents boundless opportunities for us all – collectively and individually – and especially for those being celebrated here today. Don’t be deterred and deflected by the short-term merchants of doom, gloom and despondency – stay focussed on the main prize, nothing succeeds like persistence and passionate commitment.

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Congratulations and good luck to you all. Go hard, go safely, Go Australia, Go the Mighty OZ, Go the Mighty Bombers.

Thank you very much.