



**The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia**

**Report on the Australian Parliamentary Delegation  
to the United States of America in  
September – October 2009**

**February 2010**

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ISBN 978-1-74229-245-8

Printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra

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## Foreword

Between 26 September and 11 October 2009 I was pleased to lead an Australian Parliamentary delegation to the United States (the US)—the first such delegation since the inauguration of President Obama. This was an opportunity to highlight the importance with which Australia regards its mature relationship with the US and also an opportunity for delegates to examine US innovations and approaches to a range of contemporary policy challenges.

The full delegation was as follows:

- Senator the Hon John Hogg, President of the Senate, Senator for Queensland, and Leader of the Delegation;
- Mr Patrick Secker MP, Member for Barker and Deputy Delegation Leader;
- Ms Sharon Bird MP, Member for Cunningham;
- Mr Chris Hayes MP, Member for Werriwa;
- Ms Sharryn Jackson MP, Member for Hasluck;
- The Hon Peter Lindsay MP, Member for Herbert; and
- Dr Mal Washer MP, Member for Moore.

The delegation was supported by Mr Gerard Martin (Senior Adviser to the President of the Senate) and Dr Shona Batge (Delegation Secretary). We were also greatly assisted by Mr Jonathan Kolieb, from the Embassy of Australia in Washington, who travelled with the delegation as Visit Coordinator throughout its stay in the US.

The two-week program took us to San Francisco, Detroit, New York and Washington for a comprehensive array of meetings designed to help the delegation meet a pre-determined set of aims and objectives. The topics of our meetings were wide-ranging but some themes quickly emerged as being of key interest, both to us and to those we were meeting with.

In San Francisco, many of our discussions centred on research and technological developments relating to renewable energy or to 'green' initiatives. Delegates were able to share Australian success stories in these areas and, I am sure, have also been inspired to bring home to their electorates some of the ideas encountered during their visit to the US.

In Detroit, our focus was on the future of the car manufacturing industry. In New York, our meetings included discussions on climate change, education programs and recovery from the global financial crisis. Finally, in Washington, we were able to meet with members of Congress, representatives from the US Department of State and International Monetary Fund officials, among others.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all those individuals and organisations who generously made themselves available to meet with the delegation and assist us in fulfilling the aims of our visit. It is our hope that these people and groups will engage in ongoing interactions with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) staff based in the US, so that the discussions and working relationships commenced during the delegation's visit can continue.

I would also like to acknowledge the fine efforts of DFAT and Austrade staff, in the US and in Canberra, in putting together such a diverse program. I make particular mention of Australian Embassy staff in Washington, who not only provided support to the group program but also facilitated individual meetings for delegates in areas of specific policy interest.

Finally, I wish to commend my fellow delegates for the cooperative approach that they were able to bring to meetings, constructively using any differences in perspective or policy position to engage in debate and information exchange. This spirit of bipartisanship was fundamental to the success of the delegation.



**Senator the Hon John Hogg**

**Delegation Leader**





*Delegates in Washington, preparing to attend meetings with Members of Congress at the US Capitol Building*



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

1.1 This report details the activities and observations of a delegation from the Parliament of Australia which visited the United States of America (the US) between 26 September and 11 October 2009. The delegation visited the cities of San Francisco, Detroit, New York and Washington.

1.2 Australia and the US have a high level, long-established relationship. The two countries share closely aligned strategic interests and mutually benefit from a mature trade and investment relationship. The 2009 Australian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon John Hogg, provided an opportunity to highlight the importance with which Australia regards its relationship with the US, as well as an opportunity for the delegates to examine contemporary US approaches to some key domestic and foreign policy challenges.

### **Aims and objectives of the delegation**

1.3 In the months prior to the delegation, delegation members held a series of meetings to establish the aims and objectives of the delegation and set a program that reflected these. With assistance from officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Austrade and the Parliamentary Library, the delegation determined that during its visit to the US it would seek to:

- reaffirm links and dialogue with the US Congress, and develop enhanced contacts with the Democratic and Republican leaderships in the House and the Senate;
- assess the economic situation in the US, with particular reference to responses by the Obama administration to the global financial crisis—including assistance to industry;
- assess the Obama administration's approach toward climate change issues, particularly in relation to green energy solutions;
- review recent developments in United States foreign policy and the international effort to combat terrorism and the United States approach towards prospects for successful negotiations in the Middle East;
- assess the direction of United States policies towards the Asia-Pacific region, including relations with Japan, China, the Korean peninsula and ASEAN;
- encourage continued US commitment to regional security, both through its treaty commitments and through the ASEAN Regional Forum;
- review the bilateral relationship and the prospects for its further development with particular reference to:

- directions of US trade policies and their impact on Australia, particularly prospects for expansion of trade through the Free Trade Agreement, and
- the future of Australia-US security cooperation (including the ANZUS alliance);
- project an image of Australia as an advanced economy (the fourth largest in the East Asia region behind Japan, China and South Korea) - which is a politically stable and culturally diverse country with impressive sustained economic growth, and offering an ideal springboard into Asia; and
- discuss cooperation within the multilateral system.

1.4 DFAT and Austrade officials, both in Canberra and in the US, then organised a visit program tailored to the agreed aims and objectives. The final program is shown in Appendix 1 to this report.

1.5 Acknowledging the wide-ranging policy interests and responsibilities of delegation members, it was decided that, in addition to developing a group program, delegation members would seek individual meetings in Washington on matters of particular policy interest to them. The individual meetings have not been directly reported on here but are listed in Appendix 1.

## **Acknowledgements**

1.6 The delegation expresses its appreciation of the efforts of the many people who contributed to the smooth operation of the visit and who assisted in making it such an overall success.

1.7 The delegation also thanks the many individuals and organisations who met with the delegation for their generosity in sharing their time and knowledge with the delegates.

1.8 While many people were involved, the delegation wishes to particularly acknowledge the following contributions.

### ***Canberra***

1.9 Before departure, the delegation received detailed oral and written briefings from staff from DFAT, Austrade and the Parliamentary Library. The assistance provided by relevant officials is acknowledged with thanks.

1.10 The delegation also notes the assistance provided before and during the visit by staff in the Parliamentary Relations Office, particularly Mr Andrew Templeton, and the work of HRG staff in making the necessary travel arrangements.

1.11 DFAT and Austrade officials, together with their counterparts in the US, were instrumental in assembling a comprehensive visit program.

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### *San Francisco*

1.12 The delegation thanks Mr Nigel Warren, Mr Grame Barty and DFAT and Austrade staff based at the Australian Consulate-General in San Francisco for their contribution to organising and running the first section of the program.

1.13 Thanks are also due to the following individuals and organisations who met with the delegation in San Francisco:

- Dr Jay Keasling and colleagues at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory;
- Mr Robert N Ryan Jr and colleagues at Chevron Global Upstream and Gas;
- Dr Alan Trounson and colleagues at the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine;
- Ms Johanna Partin and colleagues from the Office of Mayor Gavin Newsom;
- Ms Laura Ipsen and colleagues at Cisco Systems;
- Ms Patricia Moll and colleagues at Google; and
- Mr Lawrence Seef and colleagues at Better Place.

### *Detroit*

1.14 The delegation thanks Ms Elizabeth Schick and DFAT and Austrade staff based in Chicago for travelling to Detroit to coordinate the second section of the program.

1.15 In Detroit, the delegation thanks the following individuals and organisations who participated in meetings:

- Dr David Cole and colleagues at the Center for Automotive Research;
- Mr Ron Gettelfinger and colleagues at the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America; and
- Mr Richard E Blouse Jr and colleagues at the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership.

### *New York*

1.16 The delegation thanks DFAT and Austrade staff based in New York for their assistance in arranging the third section of the program.

1.17 The delegation notes with thanks the following individuals and organisations who participated in meetings in New York:

- Mr Christian Vanderbrouk at NYSE Euronext;
- Mr Phillip Scanlan AM, Consul General;
- Mr Shael Suransky and colleagues at the New York City Department of Education;

- Ms Frances Cassidy and colleagues at the American Australian Association;
- Mr Gary Quinlan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, together with Mr David Windsor, Ms Annette Ellis MP and Mr Paul Neville MP; and
- Professor Peter Schlosser and colleagues at The Earth Institute, Columbia University.

### ***Washington***

1.18 In the absence of Ambassador Richardson, the delegation notes its appreciation to Mr David Stuart, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Australia in Washington, and to Mrs Betty Richardson for their hospitality in the Ambassador's absence.

1.19 The delegation thanks DFAT and Austrade staff based in Washington for their assistance in arranging the final section of the program, particularly the individual visits tailored to the policy interests of each delegation member. The delegation would also like to express particular thanks to Mr Jonathan Kolieb, from the Embassy of Australia in Washington, who travelled to all four cities with delegation members and contributed greatly to the smooth and successful running of all aspects of the program.

1.20 In Washington, the delegation benefited from the time of the following individuals and organisations:

- The Honourable Louise Slaughter, Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee;
- Ms Sherry Shapiro and colleagues at the Library of Congress;
- Dr Melissa Aubin and colleagues at the Supreme Court of the United States;
- Senior staff in the office of the Honourable Henry Waxman, Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Energy;
- Ms Michaela Schrader and colleagues at the International Monetary Fund;
- Ms Alcy Frelick and colleagues at the US Department of State; and
- Mr Michael O'Hanlon of the Brookings Institution.

### **Structure of this report**

1.21 A thematic approach has been taken to reporting the delegation's visit to the US, in order to draw together the content of the various meetings the delegation undertook as a group.

1.22 Chapter 2 focuses on green initiatives and climate change related issues. The delegation heard about many examples of cutting-edge research into renewable energy technology and programs designed to increase environmental sustainability, and is pleased to have an opportunity to report on some of those initiatives here.

1.23 Chapter 3 presents a brief case study of the American automotive industry, traditionally centred in Detroit. The global financial crisis and changing consumer demands and expectations have combined to make a once strong industry vulnerable, but delegation members met with several groups who have ideas for renewal in the region and are pleased to be able to report on those here.

1.24 Chapter 4 summarises meetings on a range of other issues raised with the delegation during their visit, including:

- research and technology developments;
- education initiatives;
- governance and political systems;
- responses to the global financial crisis; and
- US role in international affairs.

1.25 Appendix 1 sets out the official program for the delegation.





## Chapter 2

### Green initiatives and climate change issues

#### Environmental sustainability: a central theme

2.1 Before the delegation members travelled to the US, they identified gathering information on green energy initiatives and approaches to climate change issues as being among their key aims and objectives.

2.2 In San Francisco in particular, but also at other locations, delegates took the opportunity to meet with leading proponents in the high-tech, renewable and clean energy fields, in order to discuss recent and prospective developments. Delegates also had opportunities to discuss a range of environmental sustainability programs and climate change programs.

#### *Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*

2.3 In San Francisco, the delegation was privileged to visit the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), a US Department of Energy laboratory located on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley.<sup>1</sup> Founded in 1931, the laboratory's mission is to conduct pure scientific research that aims to solve the most pressing and profound scientific problems facing humankind. Although it was initially primarily a nuclear physics facility, the contemporary laboratory has a broad multidisciplinary approach which includes work on energy efficiency and sustainable energy.<sup>2</sup>

#### *Biofuels*

2.4 LBNL leads the San Francisco-based Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI), which aims to advance the development of cellulosic biofuels.<sup>3</sup> Now entering its third year of operation, the institute is actively researching the biofuel potential of non-feedstock crops; seeking efficient ways to degrade and utilise biomass; and investigating synthetic fuels.

2.5 The delegation was briefed on the key principles underlying JBEI's method of working. By taking simultaneous approaches to problem solving and working

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1 See <http://www.lbl.gov/> for further details of LBNL's programs (accessed on 25 January 2010).

2 The laboratory's focus on energy and renewables was enhanced in 2005 under the leadership of then director Dr Steven Chu. In 2009, Nobel laureate Dr Chu was appointed as Secretary of Energy in the Obama administration.

3 That is, liquid fuels derived from the solar energy stored in plant biomass. See <http://jbei.lbl.gov/> for further information (accessed on 25 January 2010).

cooperatively with industry, the institute seeks to solve long-term research problems more quickly than would otherwise be the case. The East Bay of San Francisco is already a hub for biotech companies, which facilitates co-located collaborations. Scientists are seeking biofuel solutions that are compatible with existing engine technologies.

2.6 There is substantial government and industry funding support available for research of this nature, driven by the joint motivations of achieving energy security and mitigating climate change.

### *Energy efficient buildings*

2.7 The committee also received a briefing on LBNL's Buildings and Energy Efficiency program, which has an ultimate goal of developing zero energy buildings. The delegation was told that, currently, buildings are estimated to consume 40 per cent of the US's total energy expenditure, including 71 per cent of its electricity usage and 54 per cent of its natural gas usage.

2.8 Although there is enormous technical potential for energy savings through the design of more efficient buildings, there are a range of practical barriers to achieving these savings. These include the fragmented nature of the building sector and building sector regulation, as well as the relatively long lifespan of many existing buildings versus the potentially high costs of retrofitting.

2.9 The LBNL program aims to conduct research and development that will facilitate change in building design, construction and operation. A focus is to increase the use of integrated smart grid energy delivery systems, in order to optimise rapid and dynamic control of heating, cooling and lighting—with the aim of moderating energy supply during times of peak and low demand.

### *Carbon capture and storage*

2.10 The delegation further heard that LBNL also leads the Energy Frontier Research Center. One of its projects aims to develop a new-generation nanoscale technique for capturing and storing carbon. This is a long-term research project which aims to eventually reduce the energy cost of carbon storage.<sup>4</sup>

### *Chevron*

2.11 At a briefing from Chevron senior executives, delegates were informed that Chevron is the largest international energy company operating in the Asia-Pacific region (oil and gas) and also the largest geothermal energy producer in the world (although this is not a current exploration focus). Chevron executives noted that they are currently seeking to expand the gas reserves in Chevron's portfolio and that they

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4 For more information, see <http://esd.lbl.gov/research/facilities/cncgc/> (accessed on 25 January 2010).

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see a key place for Australia in that strategy, with a major exploration spend planned for the coming year.

### *Geosequestration*

2.12 Executives also briefed delegates on Chevron's joint venture geosequestration project under Barrow Island (off Western Australia)—to be the largest sequestration project in the world. Approximately 3.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the Greater Gorgon Area gas fields is to be injected into a deep geological formation below the island, for indefinite storage.<sup>5</sup>

### *Biofuels and other renewable energy sources*

2.13 Chevron recognises that, in addition to 'green' imperatives, in the coming decades the demand for energy from the globe's emerging economies will exceed what can be supplied by known oil and gas reserves, and therefore the percentage of energy needs that are met by alternative, renewable energy sources will need to increase.

2.14 Chevron told delegates that it sees the future of the biofuel industry in non-food crops—consistent with the message heard at LBNL. However, delegates were cautioned that the perception that turning to biofuels will help mitigate climate change is not necessarily accurate. In some cases, the energy costs of growing the source plants (sometimes on marginal land) can be net positive compared to alternatives.

2.15 An additional challenge is developing a biofuel that can be scaled for mass manufacture and that will be suitable for use in existing machines and technologies. Research into algal biofuel remains a high risk but potentially high reward activity, because its production would not require the dedication of arable land that could otherwise be used for food crops.

2.16 Chevron has a variety of programs that aim to research new-generation biofuel options and to invest in start-ups in the renewable energy sphere (for example, projects that aim to capture wind, wave or solar energy; recycle municipal waste; or develop next-generation biofuels based on non-edible biomass). This arm of Chevron's operations considers the activities of two to three companies per week but typically invests in only two to three per year.

2.17 Like LBNL, Chevron noted the importance of conducting joint ventures and research collaborations in order to accelerate research and development breakthroughs.

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5 More information about this project is available from the Western Australian Department of State Development – see <http://www.dsd.wa.gov.au/7599.aspx> (accessed on 25 January 2010).

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### *City of San Francisco officials*

2.18 In San Francisco, delegates met with officials from the Office of Mayor Gavin Newsom and various public utilities to discuss an array of environmental programs that are being implemented in the city.



*Delegates at San Francisco City Hall to meet with City of San Francisco officials*

### *Water and energy conservation*

2.19 Water management is an important issue in San Francisco, which is dependent on hydroelectric power to meet citizens' energy needs. Although the city has traditionally had good access to a clean flow of water from the Sierra Nevada mountains, there are some substantial challenges in delivering this to the population, including seismic activity in the valley with the potential to disrupt pipelines. Average rainfall in San Francisco itself is under 20 inches, with little to no rain falling during six months of the year.

2.20 With this in mind, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) runs a Beautiful Blue Home program<sup>6</sup>, with an emphasis on water and energy conservation. Initiatives included in this program include:

- a rebate program to encourage the installation of solar panels<sup>7</sup>;
- tailored advice for individual households on how to minimise water usage, with rebates on water efficient bathroom fittings, toilets and washing machines<sup>8</sup>;
- a collection program for old and unwanted medication, to reduce the amount of chemicals entering the wastewater treatment facilities;
- rainwater harvest programs for non-drinking purposes<sup>9</sup>;
- a free supply of biosolid compost;
- an 'Adopt a catch basin' program to help maintain the 23,000 stormwater collection points on San Francisco City's street corners; and
- a cooking oil collection program (the oil is turned into biodiesel, some of which is used to fuel the City's transportation system—see paragraph 2.23).

2.21 The City is also actively investigating technologies for harnessing wave power and has an interest in desalination processes.

2.22 Working collaboratively with the utilities, the Department of the Environment has a mission to change the behaviour of consumers, by trying to lead by example and by finding an appropriate balance between incentives (e.g. rebates) and mandates (e.g. retrofitting requirements). Overall, there is an aim for the City to steadily improve resource management and recycling programs and to move towards a zero waste policy by 2020. There is also a concerted Green Buildings program.<sup>10</sup>

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6 More information about the Beautiful Blue Home program is available through [www.sfwater.org](http://www.sfwater.org) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

7 Citizens are able to access a 'solar map' in order to better understand the solar potential of their home. This can be viewed at [sf.solarmap.org](http://sf.solarmap.org) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

8 Citizens are required to retrofit their homes with low-flow toilets before they sell their property, and there are also requirements for businesses to retrofit within the next seven years. Together, these requirements are expected to save 4 million gallons of water a day by 2017. For more information, see [http://sfwater.org/detail.cfm/MC\\_ID/13/MSC\\_ID/168/MTO\\_ID/357/C\\_ID/4642/ListID/2](http://sfwater.org/detail.cfm/MC_ID/13/MSC_ID/168/MTO_ID/357/C_ID/4642/ListID/2) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

9 Under existing legislation, drinking rainwater is not permitted.

10 For more information on City of San Francisco Department of the Environment programs, see [http://www.sfenvironment.org/our\\_programs/topics.html?ssi=8&ti=19](http://www.sfenvironment.org/our_programs/topics.html?ssi=8&ti=19) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

### *Transport initiatives*

2.23 The City also has aggressive carbon reduction goals for its public transportation fleet, which currently includes a mixture of trams, hybrid electric buses and electric trolley buses. There is also a biodiesel bus fleet and a 'green' taxi fleet made up of hybrid vehicles. An extensive bicycle path network has been developed, and citizens are able to access an array of maps and online tools which help to calculate the gradient of their proposed cycling trip.<sup>11</sup>

2.24 In a further effort to manage the use of private cars, the City has introduced variable pricing on parking meters, with costs increasing during congested periods and for longer visits to the city. The aim is to encourage those with longer term parking needs to use parking lots, freeing up meters on city blocks for those with short-term requirements.<sup>12</sup>

2.25 The City is working towards introducing an integrated smart fare card which enables citizens to move between the various modes of transport. This is currently in the trial phase.<sup>13</sup> There is also interest in developing a smartphone application that will help individuals to assess all the options and prices for travelling between point A and point B.

### *Cisco Systems*

2.26 At the Silicon Valley headquarters of Cisco Systems, delegates were briefed on Cisco's Smart Grid project. Smart Grid aims to supply electricity in a more efficient and sustainable way, giving consumers better efficiency and increased control over their energy consumption, having regard to times of peak demand and price. Cisco is working to develop information technology (IT) solutions and platforms that can interface between utilities and customers to:

- optimise grid efficiency through better correlation of power supply and demand;
- reduce energy network outages and disruptions;
- increase the resiliency and security of the power system; and
- increase environmental sustainability.<sup>14</sup>

2.27 Delegates were also briefed on Cisco's innovative EcoBoard, which has been in place since 2007 and is developing a corporate green strategy with a dual focus of

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11 See <http://www.sfbike.org/?maps> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

12 Further information on San Francisco's parking management program is available at <http://sfgov.org/site/frame.asp?u=http://www.sfmta.com/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

13 See <http://sfgov.org/site/frame.asp?u=http://www.sfmta.com/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

14 See [http://www.cisco.com/web/strategy/energy/smart\\_grid\\_solutions.html](http://www.cisco.com/web/strategy/energy/smart_grid_solutions.html) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

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reducing the company's own carbon footprint and offering consumers environmentally beneficial network and IT solutions.

2.28 Delegates were given a practical demonstration of one such solution, Cisco's TelePresence technology. This technology provides high-quality audio and video streaming which enables people at remote locations to conduct meetings as though they are in the same room.<sup>15</sup> Within Cisco, use of TelePresence has enabled the company to eliminate a large degree of internal travel, producing time, cost and carbon savings. As it becomes more widely available, the technology also has the potential to change the way people work, greatly increasing the viability of part-time and work-from-home arrangements.

2.29 The delegation notes that the Australian Government has recently purchased 20 TelePresence units, intended to link Commonwealth government offices, Prime Ministerial and Cabinet offices, Parliament House and the offices of Premiers and Chief Minister agencies in every state and territory.<sup>16</sup> The delegation further notes the potential for these or additional TelePresence units to be used in wider parliamentary work, including for meetings of parliamentary committees at times when members are in diverse locations.

### *Google*

2.30 Members of Google's Green Team briefed the delegation on some of the green initiatives under development at Google.<sup>17</sup> Acknowledging that Google is a large energy consumer and that its ability to provide rapid search capabilities is reliant on this high usage, in 2007 Google made a voluntary pledge to become carbon neutral and to focus on developing technological solutions to the challenge of managing and reducing energy usage.

2.31 Examples of Google's green efforts to date include a pilot program for plug-in rechargeable vehicles;<sup>18</sup> provision of grants and support for research into renewable energy sources that are cheaper than coal;<sup>19</sup> and the limited release of Google PowerMeter, a free electricity usage monitoring tool that will ultimately provide consumers with real-time information on how much electricity they are using in their home.<sup>20</sup>

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15 More information about the TelePresence product is available at [http://www.cisco.com/en/US/solutions/ns669/networking\\_solutions\\_products\\_genericcontent0900aecd80546cd0.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/solutions/ns669/networking_solutions_products_genericcontent0900aecd80546cd0.html) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

16 See [http://www.cisco.com/web/ANZ/learning/assets/pdf/aus\\_govcasestudy\\_final\\_0904092.pdf](http://www.cisco.com/web/ANZ/learning/assets/pdf/aus_govcasestudy_final_0904092.pdf) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

17 See <http://www.google.com/corporate/green/> for more information on Google's green initiatives (accessed on 26 January 2010).

18 <http://www.google.org/recharge/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

19 <http://www.google.org/rec.html> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

20 <http://www.google.org/powermeter/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

***Better Place***

2.32 Better Place's business goal is to promote and accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. With headquarters in Palo Alto, California, the company also has subsidiaries in Israel, Denmark and Australia, where it aims to translate consumer interest in vehicles that are not dependent on fossil fuels into a viable electric fleet within the next few years.

2.33 Better Place's developing business model revolves around consumers buying a subscription to miles, somewhat analogous to buying prepaid mobile phone minutes. Better Place envisages that consumers will buy a vehicle but lease the battery from Better Place, paying a monthly fee for access to the battery and related infrastructure (including battery charging and battery replacement stations).

2.34 Better Place executives briefed delegates on their intention to pilot their Australian program in Canberra, with infrastructure rollout scheduled for 2011 and a fleet to be in use by 2012.<sup>21</sup> The company is keen to demonstrate that their business model will work in a country where there is a high demand for suburban driving but also large distances to be covered.

***The Earth Institute, Columbia University***

2.35 At the Earth Institute in New York, delegates had an opportunity to discuss the science and management of global climate change with a panel of eminent researchers. These discussions included an acknowledgement, however, that climate change science is not universally accepted and that there are some inconsistencies in data that are not easily explained by prevailing theories.

2.36 Scientists explained to the delegates some of the difficulties involved in climate change research. For example, they suggested that heat content is a better measure of global warming than temperature, but temperature data is more readily available.

2.37 Scientists told the delegates that, in their view, although there is potential for a cap and trade system (if introduced) to impact emissions through the mechanism of imposing a market price on carbon, complementary measures will still be required to drive innovation in the green energy field. They also suggested that there is unlikely to be a single 'silver bullet'; different solutions and alternative energy sources would need to be implemented on a regional basis.

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21 For further details, see [http://australia.betterplace.com/assets/pdf/Better\\_Place\\_Canberra\\_Announcement.pdf](http://australia.betterplace.com/assets/pdf/Better_Place_Canberra_Announcement.pdf) (accessed on 26 January 2010).



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*Office of Congressman Henry Waxman*

2.38 Congressman Henry Waxman is Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has policy responsibility for both climate change legislation and health care reform—the two key domestic political issues in the US during 2009.

2.39 Although Congressman Waxman was unfortunately unable to meet with the delegation due to urgent health care reform deliberations, delegates were able to meet with senior staff from Congressman Waxman's office and from the Committee on Energy and Commerce to discuss the US's proposed legislative approach to climate change.

2.40 Staffers told delegates that the draft legislation proposes a cap and trade emissions trading system, although they also noted signals from the Obama administration that the existing US Clean Air Act may provide an avenue for directly regulating emissions. The delegation notes that in December 2009 the US Environmental Protection Agency published an endangerment finding under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, stating that:

The Administrator finds that the current and projected concentrations of the six key well-mixed greenhouse gases--carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)--in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.<sup>22</sup>

2.41 Staffers also discussed with delegates the need to make timely decisions about climate change action, in order to provide certainty to business. They noted the lobbying activities of the US Climate Action Partnership, a collection of leading corporate and environmental groups encouraging the federal government to reach a swift resolution aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>23</sup>

2.42 Finally, staffers also discussed the need for global action, rather than just national action, on climate change, and noted the value in building systems that have the potential to be integrated at the international level. They also acknowledged the need to consider the impacts of the global financial crisis in designing any climate change responses, in order to take into account the need to rebuild the US economy in a way that will be sustainable throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They suggested that in the US a key emphasis should be on building a new, clean energy industry that both reduces dependence on foreign oil and increases the availability of domestic green jobs.

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22 <http://epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

23 <http://www.us-cap.org/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).



# Chapter 3

## The US automotive industry

### Background

3.1 The delegation visited Detroit to explore the current status and future prospects of the US automotive industry. The delegation was particularly interested to learn about strategies being put in place to transition Detroit's economy and workforce from its former dependence on the automotive industry to a wider range of more sustainable industries.

3.2 The global financial crisis, together with changing consumer expectations and demands and rising global oil prices, has seriously dented the once strong US car manufacturing sector. From a peak of nearly 18 million units in 2000, by 2008 domestic car sales in the US had fallen to around 9 million units.<sup>1</sup> Detroit—home to the headquarters of the 'big three' companies General Motors, Ford and Chrysler—has borne the economic and social brunt of the downturn in this industry. Once the fourth largest city in the United States, it is no longer even in the top ten. The population is falling rapidly, as are house prices and occupancy rates.<sup>2</sup>

3.3 A key challenge now facing Detroit, which by October 2009 had an unemployment rate of 28.9 per cent, is to generate alternative employment opportunities for displaced automotive industry workers. The city is also facing serious funding shortfalls, and is consequently struggling to deliver schooling, health and other essential services.<sup>3</sup>

3.4 The US automotive industry has already received substantial 'bailout' assistance from the federal government over the last two years, in an attempt to provide essential funding to enable the industry to modernise its practices and redirect its production efforts into 21<sup>st</sup> century vehicles.

### Research and development prospects

3.5 Delegates visited the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), a non-profit organisation in Ann Arbor that conducts industry research, forecasts trends and provides public policy advice. CAR has four distinct research groups which aim to contribute to the future direction of the automotive industry: the Automotive Analysis

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1 Statistic provided by the Detroit Regional Chamber.

2 It is estimated that 20 per cent of Detroit City's 400,000 postal addresses are unoccupied - D. Okrent, 'Notown', *Time* [Australian edition], October 2009, p. 20.

3 D. Okrent, 'Notown', *Time* [Australian edition], October 2009, pp 16 – 24.

Group; the Labor and Industry Group; the Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology Group; and the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Group.<sup>4</sup>

3.6 One of CAR's current projects aims to assist in restructuring the tooling industry. Over the last ten years, there has been a 50 per cent reduction in the tooling cost for new vehicles, due in part to enhanced tool shop productivity, better designs and standardised products. As a consequence, there has also been a 50 per cent contraction in the domestic industry, with flow-on effects on labour requirements and skills profiles of workers.

3.7 CAR staff shared their predictions for the future of the US automotive market. They expect substantial recovery by no later than 2013, although they acknowledge that production levels will never return to what they were before the collapse and also that there will be both new makers and new products in the market. They see this as a time of critical transformation in the industry, and predict that both electric cars fuelled by lithium batteries and hybrid cars fuelled by non-food biofuels will be part of the new market.

### **Automotive industry workers**

3.8 The delegation's meeting with Mr Ron Gettelfinger, President of the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), provided delegates with an opportunity to consider the perspective of current and former automobile industry workers who have been affected by the downturn. Delegates discussed a range of relevant issues with UAW officials, including the potential to retrain workers, health care and health insurance challenges (particularly for part-time workers), and the potential for consolidation and mergers yet to come to cause further job losses in the industry.



*Delegation leader, Senator the Hon John Hogg, with Mr Ron Gettelfinger*

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4 For more information about CAR's work, see <http://www.cargroup.org/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

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## **Options for diversification and renewal in Detroit**

3.9 Delegates were briefed by the Detroit Regional Chamber and Detroit Regional Economic Partnership on a range of programs and options for diversification and economic renewal in the City of Detroit.

3.10 One of the key challenges facing the city is to find a way to redeploy a large workforce with skills and experience confined to the automotive manufacturing industry. As demand for those skills have fallen, many workers have struggled to find alternative opportunities which require the same skill set. City leaders are now seeking to identify new ways to use the supply chain management skills of these workers—for example, putting their manufacturing skills to work in the life sciences area or turning to the production of lithium batteries or components for green industries.

3.11 Taking into account its location on the Detroit River and proximity to Canada, another vision for Detroit's renewal is to focus on developing its potential as an internal port.

3.12 Noting that a large amount of automotive industry research and development (R&D) has already been done in Michigan, another suggestion is that R&D—rather than manufacturing—will be the focus in the future.

3.13 Officials noted that a central plank of Detroit's recovery will need to be a push towards diversification. The unprecedented collapse in the automotive industry has been a harsh lesson in the dangers of investing too heavily in one industry. However, there is an opportunity to redirect the efforts of many engineering professionals and manufacturing workers who previously worked in the automotive field into growth areas such as renewable and clean energy technologies. The aim is to develop both new business and new industries.

## **Broader opportunities in America's Midwest**

3.14 Notwithstanding the specific challenges now facing Detroit, the delegation notes that the broader US Midwest region remains a hub for manufacturing and agriculture and is emerging as a centre for research and commercialisation of clean energy. With this in mind, the delegation suggests that the next Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the US considers including Chicago on its itinerary, in order to investigate the potential for enhanced Australian investment and trade in this region.



# Chapter 4

## Other issues considered by the delegation

### Research and technology developments

#### *The Advanced Light Source at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*

4.1 Delegation members received a tour of the Advanced Light Source (ALS) facility at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in San Francisco. The ALS is an intense light source or synchrotron, generating primarily X-rays for use in scientific research. The facility can be used, for example, to explore the properties of materials; analyse the elemental make-up of samples; study atomic and molecular structure; understand chemical reactions; and develop microscopic devices.<sup>1</sup>

4.2 Delegation members were particularly interested in seeing the work done at the synchrotron given that Australia also has an advanced facility of this type. The Australian Synchrotron, located in Victoria, opened in 2007 and is the largest standalone piece of scientific infrastructure in the southern hemisphere.<sup>2</sup> With the opening of this facility, Australia now has the ability to support the types of research that have long been conducted at Berkeley's ALS.

#### *Google's child protection strategies*

4.3 Google staff briefed delegates on programs in place to protect minors from accessing inappropriate internet content. Priorities include developing tools that will assist children in protecting themselves, including from cyber bullying, and promoting safe search tools that parents can lock in place to reduce access to explicit images and some explicit text.

4.4 Delegates were also shown examples of a new online training program for teens which is designed to encourage general online safety, responsible citizenship and, particularly, safe use of YouTube. Google staff discussed processes already in place through which internet users are able to flag for review YouTube content which fails to comply with community guidelines.

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1 See <http://www.als.lbl.gov/als/> for more information about the ALS's capabilities and use (accessed 24 January 2010).

2 For more information, see <http://www.synchrotron.org.au/index.php/home> (accessed 24 January 2010).

## Education initiatives

### *New York City Department of Education*

4.5 In New York, delegates met with officials from the New York City Department of Education. Under the leadership of Chancellor Joel Klein, the department is responsible for the education of more than 1 million students and uses an innovative online reporting system to encourage improved learning outcomes for students.<sup>3</sup>

4.6 Delegates were shown examples of the information capturing and reporting capabilities of the department's Achievement Reporting and Innovation System (ARIS).<sup>4</sup> Although it was initially designed primarily for use by principals and teachers looking to compare a student's progress in various subjects and the relative performance of groups of students, parents are now also being provided with unique passwords and identifiers so that they can directly track the educational progress of their child.

4.7 Levels of information access vary within the system. For example, principals have access to socioeconomic data that is not available to individual teachers, while parents only have access to information that is directly relevant to their own child. There is no student access at this time.

## Governance and political systems

### *At the national level*

#### *House Rules Committee*

4.8 In Washington, delegates were honoured to meet with Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee. This committee has an important role in influencing the timing and order of business conducted in the US House of Representatives, as it is the role of the committee to determine the rules under which bills are brought onto the floor for debate and vote. The oldest established committee in the House, it ultimately wields tremendous power over the final shape of bills by governing the entire process by which the House chamber considers bills—including determining which amendments will be considered for a floor vote and which will not, the duration and structure of floor debate, and the length of time given for votes. Congresswoman Slaughter is the first woman to chair this committee.<sup>5</sup>

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3 See <http://schools.nyc.gov/default.htm> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

4 See <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q202/TopLinks/ARIS.htm> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

5 For more information about this committee, see <http://www.rules.house.gov/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).



4.9 Congresswoman Slaughter engaged in a wide-ranging conversation with delegates, highlighting some of the key policy challenges currently facing the US Congress—including health care reform; regulation in the financial sector in the wake of the global financial crisis, and management of the economic stimulus package; climate change legislation and promotion of alternative and renewable energy; and trade agreements.



*Delegates with Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee*

#### *Congressional Research Service*

4.10 Also in Washington, delegates were briefed on the services offered to members of Congress by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). With over 700 staff, the Research Service makes use of Library of Congress resources to conduct research and provide answers on public policy questions. Researchers respond confidentially to direct requests for information from Congress members and their staff but also seek to anticipate and provide publicly available briefing materials and reports on key and recurring topics. Researchers do not respond directly to research requests from members of the public.

4.11 The CRS is an independent, non-partisan service. Researchers use verifiable, public sources and aim to provide material that is unbiased and has been reviewed appropriately by peers.

4.12 Delegates noted strong similarities between the types of work undertaken by the CRS and staff of the Parliamentary Library at Parliament House in Canberra. Detailed briefing material and contact details of CRS staff have been passed on to Parliamentary Library staff by the delegation secretary, with a view to building links between the staff of both services.

### *Supreme Court of the US*

4.13 Delegates visited the Supreme Court of the US and received a detailed briefing on the role of the US Constitution, the Courts and the Bill of Rights in the US system of government.<sup>6</sup>

### *At the state level*

#### *Direct democracy in California*

4.14 The delegation's visit to the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) provided delegates with an insight into the practical operation of direct democracy in California. The state constitution allows for citizen-initiated propositions to become law, and one such proposition—proposition 71, which was carried in 2004 by approximately 59 per cent of voters (more than seven million 'yes' votes)—addresses a federal funding gap that arose when former President George W. Bush's administration imposed strict restrictions on stem cell research in the US. Proposition 71 establishes a state-based constitutional right to conduct stem cell research (but not reproductive cloning) and provides stable funds for stem cell research to be carried out in California, with a view to the state becoming an international hub for research in this field.<sup>7</sup>

4.15 CIRM was established to identify priority research projects and dispense the funding through grant and loan programs. The 29-member governing board, known as the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC), has a diverse membership that includes appointments made by the Chancellors of California's medical schools, by other Californian universities, by not-for-profit research institutes such as the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and the Scripps Research Institute, and by commercial entities. Twelve members of the board are patient advocates. The institute's aim is to find cures and benefit patients, and its key mission is to get research developments into clinics.

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6 For a brief overview of the Supreme Court's powers and officers, see <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/about/briefoverview.pdf> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

7 US\$3 billion in state bonds has been allocated for expenditure on stem cell research over a 10-year period. Priority is to be given to human embryonic stem cell research. More information about the funding arrangements for and governance of CIRM, as well as the research outcomes to date, is available online at <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/> (accessed on 25 January 2010).

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4.16 Delegates were told that CIRM has a fair degree of autonomy. It is not subject to the State of California's annual budget processes and there are limitations on the legislature's ability to amend the terms of the proposition (this is by design and is intended to create funding stability over an appropriate time frame to make research advances).

4.17 However, CIRM is subject to stringent transparency and accountability protocols. The President of CIRM, Dr Alan Trounson, meets with the governing board in public (although the board can meet in private session to consider proprietary information), and CIRM is also subject to an audit process.

4.18 Delegates were particularly interested in how CIRM manages intellectual property (IP) that arises out of the funded research. CIRM staff explained that proposition 71 vested the ICOC with the responsibility to set up a framework for IP management and that that framework includes a facility for the State of California to share in IP proceeds. There are also processes in place to encourage research and IP sharing across international borders.

### **Responses to the global financial crisis**

4.19 Delegates had opportunities to broadly discuss the effects of the global financial crisis on the US with Congresswoman Slaughter and with senior staffers from the office of Congressman Waxman. In New York, delegates also had discussions about the financial sector with Consul-General Scanlan and while visiting the New York Stock Exchange.

4.20 In Washington, delegates received a detailed briefing from senior officials at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about the IMF's contribution to managing the fallout from the global financial crisis. The most visible response has been an increase in IMF lending to a range of affected countries, including Pakistan, Iceland, Colombia, Mexico and Poland. The IMF's ability to provide these loans has been dependent on the support of the G20—including Australia.<sup>8</sup>

4.21 The IMF has aimed to be quick and flexible in providing these funds, placing minimal conditions on the loans in order to allow discretionary use of the funds and promote a smoother and quicker recovery than from previous crises. This flexibility has also allowed for different conditions to be applied to each country, taking better account of individual circumstances—something which has been lacking in previous IMF programs.

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8 Press release, The Hon Wayne Swan MP, Treasurer, *Australian Commitments to International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank*, 12 May 2009. Available at <http://www.treasurer.gov.au/DisplayDocs.aspx?doc=pressreleases/2009/064.htm&pageID=&min=wms&Year=&DocType=0> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

4.22 The IMF's own assessment of these programs is that they have been successful in cushioning the assisted nations from some of the more severe effects that have been seen in previous financial crises.<sup>9</sup>

## **US role in international affairs**

### *The United Nations*

4.23 New York City is home to the headquarters of the United Nations (UN). Delegates met with Australia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Gary Quinlan, as well as with fellow Australian Members of Parliament Ms Annette Ellis (Member for Canberra) and Mr Paul Neville (Member for Hinkler), who served as parliamentary advisers to Australia's Permanent Mission to the UN during the latter part of 2009.

4.24 Delegates were briefed on the UN's multilateral missions, which currently include 17 peacekeeping missions (the majority of them in Africa)<sup>10</sup>, and key issues such as climate change, achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to take place in May 2010. There was also some discussion of Australia's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council.

### *US support in the Asia-Pacific*

4.25 In a briefing from State Department officials, delegates considered the scope for better coordination of humanitarian relief in response to disasters in the Asia-Pacific region. The focus of discussions was on the potential benefits of collaborative rather than separate efforts. This collaboration could be not only between governments, but between governments and established Non Government Organisations.

### *Afghanistan*

4.26 Mr Michael O'Hanlon, Senior Foreign Policy Fellow at the Brookings Institution, led a discussion with delegates about the ongoing US military effort in Afghanistan. The context for the discussion was the recently released report by General Stanley McChrystal, Commander of the US forces in Afghanistan, which called for a surge in troop numbers.<sup>11</sup> The delegation notes December 2009 reports

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9 For the IMF's analysis of program success, see <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2009/091409.pdf> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

10 Current information about the UN's peacekeeping missions is available at <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/currentops.shtml#africa> (accessed on 26 January 2010).

11 General McChrystal's report was released publicly in September 2009 and is available online, including at [http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/Assessment\\_Redacted\\_092109.pdf?hpid=topnews](http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/Assessment_Redacted_092109.pdf?hpid=topnews) (accessed on 26 January 2010).

that President Obama will temporarily increase troop numbers in Afghanistan but has also set a clear timetable for withdrawal.<sup>12</sup>

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12 See <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34218604/> (accessed on 26 January 2010).



# Appendix 1

## Visit by Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the United States, September-October 2009

SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2009

10:15am Delegation arrives in San Francisco

2:00pm –

3:00pm **Program Briefing and Introduction to San Francisco** with:

**Mr Nigel Warren**, San Francisco Consul-General

**Mr Grame Barty**, Austrade Regional Director, Americas

**Mr Jonathan Kolieb**, Delegation Visit Coordinator

**Ms Cathy Fredericksen**, Office Manger

MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2009

8:30am –

10:15am Meetings and tour of **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory** with:

**Dr Jay Keasling**, Acting Deputy Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; CEO, Joint BioEnergy Institute; Professor, UC Berkeley

**Dr Don Medley**, Manager, Government Relations

**Dr Arun Majumdar**, Division Director, Environmental Energy Technologies

**Dr Steve Selkowitz**, Head of Building Technologies in the Environmental Energy Technologies Division

**Dr Don DePaolo**, Division Director, Earth Sciences

**Prof Berend Smit**, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Materials Sciences Division

**Dr Roger Falcone**, Director, Advanced Light Source

11:00am –

1:15pm Meeting and luncheon with **Chevron Corporation** executives including:

**Mr Robert Ryan**, Vice President, Global Exploration, Global Upstream and Gas

**Mr Kevin Chambers**, General Manager, Chevron Asia Pacific Strategy and Planning

**Mr Des King**, President, Chevron Technology Ventures

**Mr Jeffrey Jacobs**, Vice President, Biofuels and Hydrogen, Chevron Technology Ventures

2:15pm Meeting with **California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)** executives, including:

**Dr Alan Trounson**, President

**Senator Art Torres (Ret.)**, Vice Chairman Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC)

**Mr Bob Klein**, Chairman of the Board

**Ms Elona Baum**, General Counsel

**Ms Melissa King**, Director ICOC Board Relations

**Mr Pat Olson**, Director Scientific Activities

6:00pm –

8:00pm **Australians in Technology Networking Reception** in honour of Australian Parliamentary Delegation



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TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

- 8:30am Meeting with **City of San Francisco officials**, including:
- Ms Johanna Partin**, Director of Climate Protection Initiatives, Office of Mayor Gavin Newsom
- Mr Timothy Papandreou**, Assistant Deputy Director, Transportation Planning and Development, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)
- Mr Jared Blumenfeld**, Director, SF Environment, City of San Francisco
- Ms Barbara Hale**, Assistant General Manager, San Francisco Municipal Power Utility Commission (SFPUC), Power Enterprise
- 11:00am –
- 12:50pm Meeting and luncheon with **Cisco Systems** executives including:
- Ms Laura Ipsen**, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Smart Grid Business Unit
- Mr Dave Goddard**, VP Smart Grid Solutions
- Mr Les Williamson**, Managing Director, Australia and New Zealand
- 1:30pm –
- 3:30pm Meeting with **Google Inc.** executives, including:
- Ms Patricia Moll**, International Policy Manager
- Ms Jacqueline Fuller**, Director, Advocacy Clean Energy
- Ms Minnie Ingersoll**, Product Manager
- Mr Larry Alder**, Product Manager
- Mr Derek Slater**, Policy Analyst
- Mr Scott Rubin**, Senior Manager for Global Communications & Public Affairs

4:00pm –

5:00pm Meeting with **Better Place** executives including:

**Ms Amit Nisenbaum**, Head of Global Operations and Strategy

**Mr Adi Aron-Gilat**, Head of Policy

**Mr Lawrence Seef**, Head of Business Development, Americas

WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

8:00am Flight to Detroit

5:30pm **Security and Program Briefing** with:

**Ms Elizabeth Schick**, Consul-General

THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2009

10:00am –

11:30am Meeting with **Center for Automotive Research**:

**Dr David Cole**, Chairman

**Dr Jay Baron**, President and CEO and Director, Manufacturing,  
Engineering and Technology

**Dr Sean McAlinden**, Chief Economist and Vice-President for Research

1:45pm –

2:50pm Meeting with **United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural  
Implement Workers of America (UAW)** with:

**Mr Ron Gettelfinger**, President

3:15pm –

4:15pm Meeting at the **Detroit Regional Economic Partnership** with:  
**Mr Richard (Dick) E. Blouse Jr**, President and CEO, Detroit Regional Chamber  
**Mr Mike Shapiro**, Director, Detroit Regional Economic Partnership

6:00pm –

7:30pm Reception in honour of the visiting Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Detroit (hosted by **Ms Elizabeth Schick**, Consul-General, Chicago)

FRIDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2009

1:30pm Flight to New York City

MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2009

11.00am –

11:50am Meeting and tour of the **New York Stock Exchange** with **Mr Christian Vanderbrouk**

12.40pm –

2:30pm Working luncheon with **Consul-General Phil Scanlan**

3.10pm –

4:00pm Meeting with **Mr Shael Suransky**, Chief Accountability Officer, **New York City Department of Education** and other Education Department officials

6.30pm –

8:30pm **American Australian Association** function in honour of the visiting Australian Parliamentary Delegation

TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2009

10:00am–

10:20am Meeting with **Ambassador Gary Quinlan**, Australia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Consul-General New York

10:45am–

11:30am Tour of **United Nations Headquarters**

1:00pm–

2:00pm Meeting at **The Columbia Climate Center, Earth Institute, Columbia University** with:

**Prof Peter Schlosser**, Vinton Professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering; Director, Columbia Climate Center; Associate Director and Director of Research, The Earth Institute, Columbia University

**Prof Scott Barrett**, Lenfest-Earth Institute Professor of Natural Resource Economics

**Prof Mark Cane**, G. Unger Vetlesen Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences; Professor of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics

**Prof Michael Gerrard**, Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia Law School; Director, Center for Climate Change Law

**Prof Alissa Park**, Lenfest Junior Professor in Applied Climate Science; Associate Director, Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy

**Dr Cynthia Rosenzweig**, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

**Dr Richard Seager**, Palisades Geophysical Institute Senior Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

4:00pm Train to Washington DC

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WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2009

9:30 –

10:00am Meeting with **Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-New York)**,  
Chairwoman, House Rules Committee

Delegates' individual meetings

Senator Hogg and Mr Lindsay: Visit and briefing at **Walter Reed Army Medical Center**

Mr Secker: Meeting with **Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa)**

Ms Bird: Meeting with **Mr Andrew Rotherham**, Co-founder and Publisher,  
Education Sector

Ms Jackson: Meeting with **Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-Connecticut)**

Dr Washer: Meeting with **Dr Charles Boustany (R-Louisiana)**, Member of the  
House Ways and Means Committee

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2009

10:00 –

10:45am Briefing on **Congressional Research Service** by **Ms Sherry Shapiro**,  
Information Research Specialist, CRS

11:00 –

12:30pm Tour and briefing of the **Supreme Court of the United States** with  
**Ms Melissa Aubin**, Supreme Court Fellow

3:00 –

3:40pm Meeting with senior staff of **Chairman Henry Waxman (D-California)**, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee (with  
jurisdiction over climate-change and health care reform legislation)

Delegates' individual meetings

Senator Hogg and Mr Lindsay: Pentagon briefing with **Ms Aiko Lane**, Afghanistan Country Director

Mr Secker: Meeting with **Mr William (Bill) Motes**, Senior Vice President, Informa Economics

Ms Bird: Meeting with Dr Russ **Whitehurst**, Senior Fellow and Director of the Brown Center on Education Policy, The Brookings Institution

Ms Jackson: Meeting with **Ms Lauren McFerran**, Senior Labor and Employment Counsel, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

Dr Washer: Meeting with **David Conover** (Climate change expert), Bipartisan Policy Center

7:00pm Dinner hosted by **Chargé d'Affaires Mr David Stuart** and **Mrs Betty Richardson**, together with:

**Mr Alan Dunn**, Partner at the law offices of Stewart and Stewart

**Mr E J Dionne**, Brookings Institute

**Ms Jan Hutton**, Counsellor-Congressional Affairs

FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER, 2009

9:30am –

10:30am Meeting with senior officials at the **International Monetary Fund** including:

**Mr Joerg Decressin**, Division Chief, Research Department

**Mr Ben Hunt**, Deputy Division Chief, Asia and Pacific Department

**Mr Bert van Selm**, Deputy Unit Chief, Strategy, Policy and Review Department

**Ms Michaela Schrader**, Senior External Relations Officer, External Relations Department

11:00am –

12:00pm Briefing with **Ms Alcy Frelick**, Director, Office of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Affairs, **US State Department**

12:30pm –

2:00pm Roundtable lunch with **Mr Michael O’Hanlon**, Senior Foreign Policy Fellow, The Brookings Institution, hosted by **Mr Mark Pierce**, Minister-Counsellor (Political Affairs), Embassy of Australia)

6:00pm Delegation departs Washington for Australia

SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2009

7:15am Delegation arrives in Sydney

