



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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#### Increase in Skilled Migration Vital for WA - Eggleston

16<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston has backed calls by the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for WA to increase skilled migration into the State in order to service the needs of WA's booming resources sector in the future.

Senator Eggleston said that in order to maximise international investment in WA, temporary and permanent migration from both overseas and interstate was a necessary ingredient to ensure WA takes full advantage of our strong economic activity.

"According to the WA CCI, if Western Australia maintains our population trend without increasing migration, in seven years the State will fall at least 150,000 workers short of what is required to keep up with industry demand," Senator Eggleston said.

"If WA wants to make the best of the next resources boom, we must avoid past mistakes of finding ourselves in the midst of a labour shortage, which is what the CCI is concerned with.

"They understand that in order to make best use of our current economic situation, we must be willing to increase migration to facilitate the expansion of industrial output.

"Western Australia's economic activity will allow for a major increase in workforce while maintaining good wages for our workforce – there is simply an abundance of work to go around."

Senator Eggleston said he strongly advocates the implementation of a flexible system that allows local employers to secure a workforce and facilitate growth and investment plans.

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