

Foreword

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Foreword

Welcome to what may be for some of you the Crawford Fund's annual conference on food security, and for others the Africa Australia Research Forum. To explore a topic that covers mining, agriculture and development, we feel we could not have formed a better partnership nor chosen a better timing, just prior to the Africa DownUnder event.

In bringing these two different networks together we aim to address the interaction between mining and agriculture — industries so significant to both Australia and the countries of Africa.

We are fortunate to have here a group of speakers who will broaden our knowledge and challenge our thinking. They will stimulate discussion to identify national and international policies that provide benefit to communities and improve both food security and the outcomes from mining.

Australian exploration and mining companies, we believe, feel a great deal of responsibility for the communities of which they are part, and we know that people in regional and rural areas, in both Australia and Africa, need better outcomes. In the African context, this can mean the difference between hunger and food security, between safety and ill-health, between unemployment and income, and between workable and impaired environments.

During this conference, we want you to think beyond the presentations and discussions to consider new ideas and suggestions for a better future. We hope you will take advantage of opportunities during this conference to provide your input.

The proceedings of this forum will be presented to decision-makers in government and industry in the hope that better policies and practices will eventuate.

I wish to express our appreciation to the many partners, sponsors and volunteers who have been working tirelessly for the past year to make this conference possible. I particularly mention the Organising Committee: David Doepel, Dr James Ridsdill-Smith, Terry Enright, Professor Jen McComb, and Cathy Reade the Crawford Fund's Director of Public Affairs and Communication.



Hon John Kerin AM
Chairman, The Crawford Fund