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## **PREMIER INVITES GLOBAL BUSINESS TO BE PART OF GAMES SUCCESS**

*Delhi, India* – Premier Steve Bracks today launched a joint Federal and State Government initiative inviting global businesses to build stronger ties with Australian companies in the lead up to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Mr Bracks said now was the perfect time for Australian companies to share information and expertise with their Indian counterparts in preparation for the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010.

“With the international spotlight on Melbourne, the Commonwealth Games will provide the perfect environment to do business,” he said.

“The Games have already generated significant interest from other major event host cities including the organisers of the Doha Asian Games 2006 in Qatar and the 2008 Beijing Olympics in China.

“Delegates have already visited Melbourne and met organisers and businesses involved in the key Games infrastructure and planning.

“With the Commonwealth Games to be next held in Delhi in 2010, India will need to borrow some of Melbourne’s expertise and learn from our experience.

“This will have benefits for industries like architecture and town planning, traffic and transport engineers, building products suppliers, event management and security technologies.

“*Business Club Australia: Melbourne 2006* will help strengthen this knowledge sharing process, opening the doors for important trade and investment links between Australian and international businesses.”

A series of international events have been planned to promote *Business Club Australia: Melbourne 2006* and will also be rolled out across Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa, Malaysia and New Zealand in the lead up to the Games.

*Business Club Australia: Melbourne 2006* is based on the previous Business Club models used for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and also for the 2003 Rugby World Cup, which generated more than \$335 million in trade and investment outcomes.

For more information or to register visit [www.businessclubaustralia.com.au](http://www.businessclubaustralia.com.au).

The XVIII Commonwealth Games will be held from 15 – 26 March 2006 and will bring together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations.