

# An open letter from the business community

**We, the undersigned, represent businesses which employ almost one million Australians, and provide products and services to people right across the country. We have seen how effectively this country can come together over the past 18 months – with state and federal governments working alongside communities and businesses.**

We have seen the effectiveness of lockdowns in suppressing the virus last year, and in slowing its spread today while we vaccinate the population as quickly as possible. We are encouraged by the building momentum in the vaccine program, with Australia now administering more doses per capita each week than the UK or the US ever achieved in their programs.

At the same time, we can also see the impact of lockdowns on our people, on our customers, on our small business suppliers, and on communities and families right across the country. Australia is juggling a mental health emergency at the same time as a global pandemic. Some of the impacts of current lockdowns are hidden, and the effects will be long lasting.















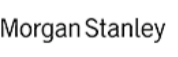





As vaccination rates increase, it will become necessary to open up society and live with the virus, in the same way that other countries have done. The National Cabinet has agreed to a roadmap which provides a path out of lockdowns, with an easing of restrictions from 70% and 80% vaccination rates. We need to stay the course.

Informed by modelling from the Doherty Institute, it balances the risks from COVID in a more vaccinated population, with the risks of indefinitely keeping our country divided and cut off from the world, our children out of schools, our friends apart from loved ones, and our small businesses closed.

Businesses will continue to do whatever we can to support our people to get vaccinated and to provide a safe environment for our customers and the community, including the prioritisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as originally intended.

**We ask governments to work together to implement the National Plan and chart a path out of the current lockdowns. Providing a light at the end of the tunnel will encourage more Australians to get vaccinated. We need to give people something to hope for, something to look forward to, something to plan around, and to be confident about their futures.**

## Signatories:

 Tara Brady Country Managing Director ANZ	 Graeme Hunt Interim CEO & MD	 Richard Feledy Managing Director	 Matthew Halliday Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer	 Shayne Elliott Chief Executive Officer	 Rob Wheals Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director	 Paul Jenkins Global Managing Partner	 Dominic Stevens Managing Director and CEO	 Rohan Mead Group Managing Director & CEO
 Peter Stumbles Managing Partner - Australia	 Nick Fels Chief Executive Officer	 Marnie Baker Managing Director	 Mike Henry Chief Executive Officer	 Dr Brendan Nelson AO President	 George Frazis Chief Executive Officer	 Hisham El-Ansary Chief Executive Officer	 Tim Reed, President Jennifer Westacott AO Chief Executive	 Simon Swanson Managing Director
 Dig Howitt Chief Executive Officer and President	 Steven Cain CEO and Managing Director	 Matt Comyn Chief Executive Officer	 Mark van Dyck Regional Managing Director	 Richard Gibb Chief Executive Officer	 John Paitaridis Chief Executive Officer	 Adam Powick Chief Executive Officer	 Patrick Houlihan Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer	 Karen Dobson Managing Director
 Seelan Nayagam President, Asia Pacific	 Guy Chalkley Chief Executive Officer	 David Larocca Oceania CEO and Regional Managing Partner	 Dean Fradgley Chief Executive of Australia	 Graeme Beardsell Chief Executive Officer	 Sam Maresh Country Leader	 Daniel Gilbert AM Managing Partner	 Robert Spurway Managing Director & CEO	 Urs Meyerhans Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
 Phil Schacht Chief Executive	 Andrew Pike Executive Partner	 Eoin Macneill Vice President	 Michael Miller Managing Director	 Nick Hawkins, Managing Director and CEO	 Jeanne Johns Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer	 Rob Bedwell Chief Executive Officer	 Frank Tudor Managing Director	 Adam Dixon Managing Partner/MD ANZ
 Scott Bookmyer Partner, Head of Australia	 Alison Kitchen Australian Chairman	 Greg O'Neill OAM President & Chief Executive Officer	 Ahmed Fahour AO Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer	 Angus Dawson Managing Partner, Australia & New Zealand	 Shemara Wikramanayake Chief Executive Officer	 Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz CEO and Managing Director	 Richard Wagner Chief Executive Officer and Co-Head of Investment Banking	 Greg Ellis Chief Executive Officer
 Ross McEwan CBE Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director	 Alison Deitz Chief Executive Partner	 Frank Calabria Chief Executive Officer	 Paul Scurrah Managing Director and Chief Executive	 Mario Rehayem Chief Executive Officer	 Rob Ada Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer	 Glenn Thompson Managing Director & Group CEO	 Tom Seymour Chief Executive Officer	 Alan Joyce AC Chief Executive Officer
 Sue Houghton CEO, Australia Pacific	 Pip Marlow CEO & Executive Vice President ANZ	 Peter Allen Chief Executive Officer	 Tony Nunan EVP/Country Chair Shell Australia	 Kelly Bayer Rosmarin Chief Executive Officer	 Paul Broad Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer	 Graham Kerr Chief Executive Officer	 Tarun Gupta Managing Director and CEO	 Steve Johnston CEO
 Geoff Culbert Chief Executive Officer	 Andrew Penn Chief Executive Officer	 Scott Charlton Chief Executive Officer	 Dom Taylor General Manager ANZ	 Rob Scott Chief Executive Officer	 Peter King Chief Executive Officer	 Brad Banducci Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director	 Guy Templeton President and CEO, Asia Pacific	Authorised by J. Wilson for the Business Council of Australia of 120 Collins St, Melbourne.