

**Media Release**

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**ATKINSON PUSHES GREEN BUILDINGS AT CLINTON AGM**

At the invitation of former US President Bill Clinton, Maria Atkinson, Lend Lease Global Head of Sustainability, will tomorrow advocate ways to accelerate the push to green buildings at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York.

Ms Atkinson will be the only Australian panelist at the influential 3-day meeting, which is bringing together 1,000 leaders from business, NGOs, foundations, academia and government, to identify concrete actions to help solve problems across four areas of focus: energy & climate change, poverty, health and education; and to provide guidance from which members will make their commitment to action over the year ahead.

Sir Richard Branson's commitment of \$3 billion to renewable energy initiatives was one of the 262 commitments, totaling more than \$7.3 billion, made at last year's Annual General Meeting.

Coinciding with the UN General Assembly, featured attendees include many current and former heads of government, including the Prime Ministers of Norway, Turkey and The Netherlands, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and former US Vice President Al Gore, as well as leading business figures such as Ted Turner (Chairman, Turner Enterprises), Ian Davis (World Wide MD, McKinsey & Co), Rupert Murdoch (Chairman & CEO, News Corporation) and John Chambers (Chair & CEO, Cisco Systems).

Ms Atkinson will join US architect Carlton Brown, who runs a Harlem-based real estate development company which specialises in green affordable housing; Global Director of Capital Projects for Citi Realty Services, Stephen Lane; and leading Indian green architect Karan Grover; in a session entitled "*Accelerating Green Building*", to be moderated by world-renowned green architect William McDonough.

One of five working sessions on Energy & Climate Change, the session brief is to "explore opportunities for fighting climate change through buildings, which are responsible for more heat-trapping gases than vehicles. This session will demonstrate how investments in energy-saving and other climate-friendly building technologies can save money and contribute to solving the climate challenge."

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