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U.S. Ambassador Robert D. McCallum, Jr.

**Remarks to the 2007 Banksia Environmental Foundation Awards
Gala – As Prepared for Delivery**

Sydney, Australia – July 20, 2007

Minister Turnbull, Hutch Ranck, Maree McCaskill, members of the Banksia Environmental Foundation, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good evening and thank you for inviting Mimi and me to join you tonight in recognizing not only California's Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger but all of the finalists' for their important contributions to protecting the environment and dealing with climate change issues. All of us here tonight also congratulate both the Banksia Environmental Foundation and Minister Turnbull for their leadership on these important issues.

Governor Schwarzenegger has been an important American voice on climate change issues, and his leadership has contributed to a growing momentum, not just in the United States but around the world, to address climate change issues now on a coordinated, global basis. Consider for a moment recent events that evidence that momentum. China and Japan both recently announced their intentions to reduce emissions. Prime Minister Howard this week laid the groundwork for a national emissions trading system. Several weeks ago, members of the G-8 called for concerted international action on the problem of climate change. President Bush recently proposed a meeting of the national leaders of all major consumers of energy and emitters of green-house gases to formulate by the end of 2008 a new international framework to address climate change. And this September under Australia's leadership, the APEC member economies will have climate change as one of their top agenda items at its Leaders Summit.

All these developments reflect the Banksia Awards theme – “Solutions Through Convergence.” In addressing an issue that is as complex and global as climate change, there is no one “silver bullet” that will solve the problem, and there is no possibility of achieving a successful outcome other than through international collaboration.

That is why institutions like the Banksia Environmental Foundation and the celebration of the achievements of individuals like Governor Schwarzenegger and the other award nominees is so important. Our generation has a responsibility that was recognized long ago by one of my favorite Americans and a renowned conservationist, Theodore Roosevelt, who in 1910 said each generation “behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets, which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.” Highlighting best practices, which is what we are doing tonight, is an excellent way to raise awareness and to motivate others to join in the effort to find creative and innovative solutions.

The ultimate goal was recognized by the Governor in his speech last week in Florida. He said “We can grow the economy and still simultaneously protect the environment. It's not a choice, it's not either or; the two go hand in hand.”

Again, I congratulate the Governor and the other award nominees for their imaginative efforts to meet our responsibilities to future generations by addressing these challenges and to achieve that ultimate goal.

Thank you.