



# MEDIA RELEASE

## WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2017 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

2 JUNE 2017

Andrew Forrest AO has been awarded the State's highest honour, being named 2017's *Western Australian of the Year* at the prestigious Western Australian of the Year Awards Gala Dinner held tonight at Crown Towers.

In addition to being the founder, former CEO and Chairman of the world-leading Fortescue Metals Group, Andrew Forrest is considered one of Australia's greatest philanthropists, business leaders and agents of change.

Under his leadership, Fortescue has made significant investments in the Australian resources sector of more than US\$20 billion. In late May, 2017 it was also announced that Andrew and his wife Nicola will donate \$400 million to be used for a number of social and scientific causes, including cancer research and the eradication of slavery.

Through the Minderoo Foundation, established with his wife Nicola in 2001, Andrew devotes his energy to society's most vulnerable citizens, with a focus on ending Australia's Aboriginal disparity and drawing attention to and liberating 45.8 million people trapped in modern slavery around the world.

Andrew and Nicola are the first Australians to join The Giving Pledge, vowing to give away the overwhelming majority of their wealth. The Forrests also actively champion arts and culture, as well as early childhood development, working in collaboration with the corporate sector, government and broader community.

Recognising the achievements of Western Australians from a broad cross-section of the community, 27 finalists were chosen across seven categories for the awards.

The individual winners of each category were also announced at the Gala Dinner and are as follows:

- **Aboriginal Award** – *Presented by Wesfarmers*
  - Gina Williams
- **Arts and Culture Award** – *Presented by Woodside Energy*
  - Marcus Canning
- **Business Award**- *Presented by Channel Seven*
  - Andrew Forrest AO
- **Community Award** – *Presented by Alcoa of Australia*
  - Peter Lyndon-James
- **Professions Award**- *Presented by EY*
  - Dr. James Fitzpatrick
- **Sport Award** – *Presented by Hardy Brothers Jewellers*
  - Dennis Cometti
- **Youth Award** – *Presented by BHP Billiton*
  - Ryan Morich

MAJOR SUPPORTERS





Photographs and biographies of all winners are available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6l5hu2rug30uvp/AAA5bE4IFf5b56DCKdxq1WTWa?dl=0>

ENDS

**Media contacts**

Anthony Hasluck  
Clarity Communications  
0438 522 194

Nadia Bolte  
Clarity Communications  
0497 819 701

**About Celebrate WA**

Celebrate WA is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for promoting and organising the annual WA Day celebrations; promoting excellence and achievement by Western Australians in all fields of endeavour; and encouraging pride in all things Western Australian.

Celebrate WA's Major Supporters include BHP, the State Government and Lotterywest.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

