



## T R E A S U R E R

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### MEDIA RELEASE

# Roozendaal welcomes \$50m Audi Centre Sydney

NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today welcomed the official opening of German auto giant Audi's \$50 million Australian headquarters in Sydney – the largest of its kind in the world to-date.

The company plans to invest around \$200 million in new and upgraded facilities by 2010, supported by the national Audi dealer network.

The Audi network currently employs around 1000 people in Australia, half of those in NSW.

Mr Roozendaal welcomed Audi as the latest international company to expand in NSW.

The \$50 million "Lighthouse" centre is located on South Dowling Street in Sydney and during construction, it supported around 230 local jobs.

"This is just the latest example of a global company expanding in NSW.

"We're seeing the green shoots of recovery in the economy and that's good news for the families of NSW," Mr Roozendaal said.

Audi Australia's managing director Joerg Hofmann said the investment in Australia by the German carmaker was a signal of confidence in the brand's growth, and the Australian economy's resilience.

"Significantly, it also demonstrates the company's long term commitment to this country and our confidence that our brand will continue to grow in this economic climate," Mr Hofmann said.

The eight-level, 16,000+ square metre facility at Victoria Park follows a global benchmark for showrooms for the luxury carmaker.

The expansion comes as latest figures reveal NSW is leading the recovery of Australia's retail sector, creating jobs and boosting the state's economy.

Announcements include:

- US retail giant Costco is planning an expansion into NSW with its first warehouse at Auburn to support at least 200 jobs;
- JB Hi-Fi will open a further 17 new stores over three years, creating 765 jobs; and
- Bunnings will create more than 700 jobs in NSW and invest \$148 million into the State economy with six new Bunnings.

"All of my energies are focused on supporting jobs, maintaining business confidence and keeping the NSW economy strong," Mr Roozendaal said.

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