



**AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA
BUSINESS COUNCIL LTD**
ABN 32 059 751638

5 October 2005

PRESS RELEASE

The Australia Indonesia Business Council is a non profit business association representing around 250 members and businesses interested in trade and investment with Indonesia. Our members range from large corporates with direct investments in Indonesia, to legal, educational, and other consultants, importers and exporters. We provide our members with networking opportunities and information on business.

Two days ago we issued a press release extending our condolences to the victims of the recent Bali Bombings, and to their families and friends. We also extended our support to the Balinese who will suffer the economic impact of the tragedy. We remain firmly committed to the promotion of business between our countries.

Contrary to some comments on the radio this morning, the AIBC has not issued any warnings to our members to stay out of Indonesia. I understand from our WA Branch Chairman, that the comments he made were taken out of context. The message he was trying to convey was that during the Ramadhan month of fasting, it may be difficult for new business people venturing to Indonesia to arrange business meetings. During Ramadhan, thoughts are focused on religious and family considerations which often take priority over business considerations.

As an organization, we do not, and have not, issued any travel advisories to our members. We refer them to the DFAT travel advisories, and to use their own judgement.

We have surveyed our members on their expectations of the impact of the bombing on their business and on their industry. We have done this previously in 2002 and again in 2004. Preliminary results of our current survey indicate that members expect less of an impact on business than after previous incidents. The results of this survey will be made available when completed in a few days time.

Eric de Haas
President
Australia Indonesia Business Council