

Visit by the Croatian Ambassador

The beginning of 2010 saw the first official visit to Western Australia by his Excellency Mr Vicencije Biuk, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia. Mr Biuk commenced his Australian posting in November 2008.

Mr Biuk met with both myself and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Michael Sutherland. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr Hrvoje Petrusic, Consul of the Republic of Croatia in Western Australia.

During my meeting with the Ambassador, we discussed the valuable work of the Western Australian Croatian Chamber of Commerce. Both the Western Australian and Croatian Governments supported the creation of the Chamber in order to promote a positive economic and cultural relationship between Western Australia and the Republic of Croatia. The Western Australian Croatian Chamber of Commerce consists of 53 foundation members and was formed in April 2003.

Education and Training International, the international arm of the Western Australian Department of Training and Workplace Development, has identified potential opportunities for Western Australia to assist Croatia in education reform and in service sector and industry-related training. The opportunities for various Western Australian businesses to export goods and services to Croatia were discussed, including those operating the marine, infrastructure, agribusiness, innovative technologies, water management and tourism sectors.

The formation of 'sister cities' is very important for Western Australia and in 1998, the Cities of Cockburn (south of Perth) and Split (on the Dalmatian Coast) became Sister Cities. Cockburn is home to the Australian Marine Complex and global shipbuilders and Split has major shipyards. Both myself and the Ambassador acknowledged that there are many synergies amongst both cities in the marine sector.



Picture: The President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Barry House, middle, with Mr Mr Hrvoje Petrusic, Consul of the Republic of Croatia in Western Australia, left, and Mr Vicencije Biuk, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, right.