



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS – 12 MONTHS AND COUNTING

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, today joined British Consul General, Richard Morris, to officially mark 'one year to go' until the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games begin.

Mr Annesley and Mr Morris inspected the Omega Countdown clock located on British soil at the Consulate-General in Circular Quay, a smaller model of the official countdown clock in Trafalgar Square.

Mr Annesley said, "The Olympic Games celebrate the highest values of sport, bringing people from all corners of the globe to unite in the pursuit of excellence and healthy competition."

Mr Morris added, "We're delighted to be able to have one of only 40 Omega Countdown clocks here in Sydney. The Games held in Sydney in 2000 represent the pinnacle of the modern Olympic Games and that's the benchmark we're striving for with London 2012. The UK is very much looking forward to welcoming all Australians, whether athletes, families or spectators to London in July next year."

In just 365 days, London will stage the 30th modern Summer Olympics, making it the first city to host three Summer Olympic Games.

"All of the major venues are now complete and it's fantastic to see such a huge construction project, Europe's largest, delivered on time and on budget," said Mr Morris.

"It's going to leave a great legacy for the UK, a £21 billion boost to our economy and most importantly - it's going to be a fantastic games," added Mr Morris

The 2012 Paralympics will follow a few weeks later in August.

Mr Annesley said, "Like the rest of Australia, I'm keen to see our top athletes perform in London, such as NSW's own Matthew Mitcham (diving), Dani Samuels (discus), Fabrice Lapierre (long jump), Tom Slingsby (sailing) and of course, the return of swimming legend Ian Thorpe.

"Of the 435 Olympians in the Australian team that represented at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 104 were from NSW and nearly a third returned home with medals, which speaks volumes for the contribution and efforts of the NSW Institute of Sport.

"Today marks one year to the commencement of the London 2012 Olympics and I wish all our athletes, coaches and officials the very best in their preparations over the next twelve months," Mr Annesley said.

Mr Annesley and Mr Morris will join Premier Barry O'Farrell, key members of the Olympic movement and guests from the NSW business community at the 'One Year to Go' Appeal Dinner for the 2012 Australian Olympic Team at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre tonight.