



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**Press Statement**

**Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, HE Mr Graeme Wilson  
Cape Town International Jazz Festival  
5 April 2013**

I am delighted to be here supporting Australia's participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> Cape Town International Jazz Festival – a truly world class event featuring over 40 of the world's finest musicians. I feel very privileged to be able to contribute to showcasing a very talented contemporary Australian band – *Dubmarine* – at one of Africa's most prestigious music festivals.

A very rewarding and important part of my role as Australia's High Commissioner to South Africa is to promote cultural exchanges between Australian and South African artistic communities. Such exchanges not only create significant opportunities for the individual artists involved, but also build important institutional linkages between our respective countries. Australian participation in the Cape Town International Jazz Festival will further enrich the bilateral relationship.

Australia and South Africa have never been more connected – through trade and investment, multilateral cooperation and people-to-people links, including in business, education, tourism, sport and the cultural sector.

There are also many new and exciting opportunities emerging for increased bilateral cooperation – including on important science and technology issues such as our joint hosting of the enormous Square Kilometre Array telescope; on international financial and economic reform through our respective membership of the G20 (which Australia is gearing up to host in 2014); and on regional peace and security issues during Australia's two-year term on the United Nations Security Council.

In this context, ensuring we have respect and understanding of one another's culture and identity is fundamental to maintaining a dynamic relationship. I hope that *Dubmarine*'s high-energy performances at the festival will give you some insight into the contemporary Australian music scene. *Dubmarine*'s lead vocalist, D-Kazman, is an acclaimed Australian singer and dancer with ancestral links to the indigenous *Gungalu* people of Mount Morgan in Queensland. Since their formation in 2007, Dubmarine have released five albums and toured extensively internationally. In Australia, they have earned many local awards and perform frequently at music festivals across the country.

I'm very proud that the band have taken time out from their busy performance schedule to share their distinctive approach to making music with local South African musicians, including at a 'masterclass' workshop held yesterday as part of the Jazz Festival's training and development program. I'll now hand you over to the band so they can tell you more about their participation in the Festival.

Thank you.