

# ***Media Release***



## **Australia imposes sanctions on Myanmar military leaders**

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Australia Myanmar Institute (AMI) and supporters of Myanmar commend the Australian government for introducing targeted sanctions against the leaders of Myanmar's military plus two key entities supporting their régime.

The announcement this morning by Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Assistant Foreign Minister Tim Watts coincides with the second anniversary of the military takeover and supports similar initiatives taken by US, UK, European Union, Canada and New Zealand.

Commenting on the announcement, AMI President Christopher Lamb said that while this action had come very late, the choice of the anniversary for the action was welcome and would help focus attention on the brutal repression and atrocities unleashed on the population over the past two years.

The targeting to 21 individuals in the régime leadership plus the two major military-backed companies (Myanmar Economic Corporation and Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd) also made it clear who is primarily responsible for the destruction of the rights-based society built in Myanmar since the elections in 2010 and 2015.

The next task, Mr Lamb said, will be for Australia to meet with the other countries which have imposed similar sanctions, to ensure that implementation is well coordinated and that further action is taken as necessary. These processes should be conducted in an atmosphere of transparency, and with partnership with the many Australian Members of Parliament who are strong supporters of human rights and democracy in Myanmar.

Australia should also use this new policy approach to support the provision of greater assistance to vulnerable people in Myanmar, through NGOs and community organisations, as well as providing more aid to refugees and asylum seekers fleeing persecution and military attacks in Myanmar.

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