

# France – Australia Business Council

## COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

**Mr. Pierre-Eric POMMELLET**  
Chairman & CEO of Naval Group

## PARTNERS IN AUSTRALIA

**BCA**  
Business Council of Australia

**EABC**  
European Australian Business Council

**CCIA**  
Australian Chamber of Commerce

**AIG**  
Australian Industry Group

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## COUNCIL ACTIONS FOR COMPANIES

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**The France-Australia business council of MEDEF** International began its activities in 1994. Relations have considerably intensified in recent years both with federal and state governments and with the local private sector.

Succeeding to Mr. Guillaume PEPY, Chairman of the SNCF's Management Board in 2018 and Mr. Hervé GUILLOU, CEO of Naval Group and then GICAN, Mr. Pierre-Eric POMMELLET, CEO of Naval Group, now chairs the Board.

2017 was an emblematic year for the French-Australian bilateral relations with the signing of the strengthened strategic partnership during the official visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean-Marc AYRAULT and the "contract of the century" won by Naval Group, which provides leverage for the other sectors. In addition, France and Australia are committed to building an in-depth partnership in the "new indo-pacific axis" during the visit of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, in 2018.

As the world's 13th largest economy with a 28-years growth, Australia offers proximity to Asian markets and the future free trade agreement with the European Union opens new prospects.

As Australia moves away from its dependence on raw materials, it is continuing its transition to a more diversified and innovation-focused economy. Major needs in infrastructure development exist mainly in major cities, to accompany the very rapid growth of the Australian population. For example, Aerotropolis, a new 11,000 ha economic hub is being created west of Sydney, with the development of a new international airport scheduled to open in 2026.

The strong presence of French companies (several hundreds, including almost all the “CAC40”, employing around 70,000 people) can be found in emblematic sectors (urban and maritime transport, water supply and waste management, energy, construction, etc.).

The economic and trade relationship between France and Australia is recognized and privileged, the meetings of the Council, which are held on a regular basis in France, and business delegations aim at:

**1. opening to the French companies a direct access to:**

- the Federal and State Governments,
- administrative and public economic decision-makers with cross-cutting and sectoral competences,
- the Australia private sector (with our partners BCA and EABC);

**2. providing companies with keys to understanding and making decisions for their activities, mainly on:**

- business opportunities in each sector depending on the evolution of the market and the country's priorities
- the business environment, operating and investment conditions, access to public markets,
- the financing and management of local projects, forms of partnership and localization,
- the structuring of industries and business sectors,
- and, more generally, elements for understanding the risks and opportunities related to internal developments and the country's regional environment;

**3. increasing the experience sharing between French companies of all sizes, active in Australia or in the region, and promoting the meeting of new partners on this market..**

*Reports of the meetings and delegations of the council are available to MEDEF International members upon request.*