



# Max to be our man for Mali

**Max de Vietri, a West Perth businessman, has been named the inaugural Australian honorary consul for Mali.**

Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer has approved this appointment.

Mr de Vietri is managing director and CEO of newly formed Australian public company, Baraka Petroleum, set up to buy, consolidate and develop oil and gas assets and activities in the potential hydrocarbon basins of West Africa.

Baraka has one of the biggest oil and gas assets in West Africa, with rights to explore and develop eight tenement areas covering over 272,000sq.km in Mauritania and Mali.

Mr de Vietri has a 25-year involvement with Africa, promoting trade in the region and assisting the countries in their economic development.

He has been involved in opening petroleum and mineral opportunities in Mauritania, Mali, and the Ivory Coast.

Mali has an established gold and diamond mining industry, with leading Australian exploration companies including BHP and Rio Tinto operating in the country.

Mali is a close neighbour to Mauritania, which has achieved strong economic benefit as a result of the investment by Australian and other world-class pe-

troleum exploration companies operating in the country.

Mali is working towards unlocking the petroleum exploration potential within its own borders to stimulate economic development in the country.

The Malian Minister of Mining, Energy and Water and the Minister for Investment are due to visit Australia for the first time in September to attend industry conventions and meet with their Australian counterparts.



*Max de Vietri, honorary consul for Mali*