Portrait of chief at ore-some speed

Peter Williams

Iron ore mining boss Andrew Harding found out last night what it was like to have your portrait painted in five minutes in front of hundreds of people.

The Rio Tinto executive and Chevron Australia boss Roy Krzywosinski both got their likenesses committed to canvas by speed painter Brad Blaze as part of being feted at a glitzy event celebrating US-Australian ties.

The pair were honoured at an American Australian Association benefit dinner being staged in Perth for the first time at the University of WA.

Mr Harding is an Australian who became Rio’s iron ore chief in Perth last year after heading the mining giant’s global copper business from London. He spent five years in the US running its biggest copper mine in Utah.

He said the two countries had in common their roots in primary industry and openness to immigration.

“We share a culture of self-reliance and self-determination,” he said.

“No company can thrive without partners and no country can prosper without strong allies and friends.”

Mr Krzywosinski, an American, has led Chevron’s development of the $30 billion Gorgon and Wheatstone liquefied natural gas projects for the past six years.

“This honour recognises Chevron’s significant investment in Australia and the mutual benefits it brings to both our great nations,” he said.