Chevron, Rio executives honoured for role in US-Australian ties

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Rio Tinto iron ore chief executive Andrew Harding spent several years living in Utah as the head of Rio's Kennecott Bingham Canyon copper mine. Picture: Colin Murty Source: News Corp Australia

CHEVRON executive Roy Krzywosinski and Rio Tinto iron ore chief Andrew Harding have been honoured for their contributions to US-Australian economic relations at a gala function in Perth.

The pair were honoured at the American Australian Association benefit dinner at the University of Western Australia on Wednesday night, marking the first time the association has held an event in the state.

Senior political and business figures were among the 450 attending the dinner.

Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce, Woodside Petroleum and National Australia Bank chairman Michael Chaney, News Corp Australia chief executive Julian Clarke, Seven Group executive chairman Don Voelte, Roy Hill chief executive Barry Fitzgerald and Atlas Iron chief executive Ken Brinsden were among the business identities at the dinner.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, WA Premier Colin Barnett, US ambassador John Berry and former WA and South Australian premiers Richard Court and John Olsen also attended.

Mr Krzywosinski is overseeing Chevron's construction of two major liquefied natural gas plants in WA, which together will cost more than $US80 billion ($86bn) to build. The company's Gorgon LNG project is the largest single development undertaken by Chevron.

Mr Krzywosinski, who has spent the past nine years in Australia, said he was honoured and
humbled by the award.

“It recognises the commitment and dedication of literally thousands of people, people I’m proud to go to work every day at Chevron,” he said. “This honour recognises Chevron’s significant investment in Australia, and the mutual benefits it brings to both our great nations.”

Mr Harding spent several years living in Utah as the head of Rio Tinto’s Kennecott Bingham Canyon copper mine before being promoted to the head of the iron ore division last year. “One thing I have learned from my experience working in America and in Australia is that a strong partnership combined with genuine commitment, delivers huge influence and capacity to contribute constructively to society,” Mr Harding said while accepting his award.

“And it is up to every one of us, and especially to the recipients of these American Australian Association fellowships, to bring the best of both of our countries and make this partnership a genuine force for good in the world.”

Mr Berry told the dinner that he had first learned about the “warm-hearted and generous” nature of Australians through the stories his father told him after World War II. “Our friendship is long and it is vast,” he said. “The spirit of the Anzacs and the goodness that my father witnessed in 1943 is alive and well in Australia today.”

The evening also celebrated Australia to USA fellowship recipients in various fields.

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