



**News Release**

**March 30, 2014**

**Former Premier of Tasmania, Australia joins PlaceSpeak's Board**

Vancouver, BC Canada - Michael Harcourt, Chair of PlaceSpeak's Board of Directors has announced the appointment of David Bartlett, former Premier of Tasmania, Australia, to the board of the Vancouver-based technology company. PlaceSpeak has developed an innovative on-line public engagement platform that is now widely used in Canada and is now being adopted for use by regional governments in the US.

Mr. Bartlett, who served as premier from 2008 to 2011 was recently named as one of Australia's fifty most influential people in technology. He says PlaceSpeak has 'tremendous potential' to democratize power and influence across a broader base of public participants in Australia and elsewhere.

"PlaceSpeak is a form of electronic 'town hall' where people can have genuine dialogue on matters of importance to their communities," he says. "Decision-makers have been reluctant to engage the public on-line because so many processes turn into a free-for-all of often toxic exchanges from anonymous people with little direct connection to a community. This does nothing to support good public policy.

PlaceSpeak uses 'geo-authentication', which allows people to claim their location in a neighbourhood and provide community and business leaders with specific issues and perspectives from those who are most invested in the ultimate decision. Bartlett says this generates better input for decision-makers and boosts public confidence in the consultation process.

"Anyone who's accountable to the public knows that how decisions are made are often as important to citizens as the decisions themselves," he says.

Mr. Harcourt, who was Vancouver's Mayor from 1980 to 1986 and Premier of British Columbia from 1991 to 1996, says Mr. Bartlett's appointment to the Board will further strengthen PlaceSpeak's growth potential. "As premiers, both David and I gained a very unique perspective of the value of genuine public dialogue. David's technology credentials coupled with his political experience makes him a unique 'find' to join the leadership of a very unique company," he says.

"Earlier this month, PlaceSpeak was recognized by the technology consulting firm Rocket Builders as one of BC's 'Emerging Rockets' because of its growth potential. We have also just completed a successful round of seed financing that has positioned us to realize that potential," Harcourt added.

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### About David Bartlett



In addition to being a member of PlaceSpeak's Board of Directors, Mr. Bartlett is Chairman and Director of **Asdeq Labs. Pty. Ltd.**, an Australian-based, high growth IT company specializing in taking new technologies to market, mergers and acquisitions. He is also Director and Strategist for **Explor Consulting**, which helps communities and their governments embrace the latest broadband technologies for social and economic renewal, and Senior Advisor to **The Nous Group**, one of Australia's fastest growing management consultancies with expertise in public policy, leadership and management development.

Mr. Bartlett was Premier of Tasmania from May 2008 to January 2011 and previously served as Minister of Education & Skills, Minister for Innovation, Science & Technology and Minister for Workplace Relations & Planning in the Tasmanian government.

Mr. Bartlett comments on PlaceSpeak here: <http://youtu.be/6rElpmEVDyU>

Australian media can reach Mr. Bartlett on: 0400 039 648

### About PlaceSpeak

PlaceSpeak was developed in Vancouver BC and has been used primarily by governments and related agencies, non-governmental organizations, land development companies and the natural resource industry. It has often been incorporated into the services provided to these agencies by communication, public consultation, planning and engineering consultancies. The PlaceSpeak platform has been employed by a number of Canadian municipalities and has recently been adopted by Orange County, Florida in the United States and for local initiatives in Northern Ireland.

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PlaceSpeak was designed to address a number of critical shortcomings of standard online consultation, improve public confidence in government and company consultation processes and provide decision-makers with higher-quality citizen input.

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