

# Find an expert



## Who do I call for a comment on.....?

Following is a list of Melbourne Business School faculty who are happy to provide you with an unbiased opinion about the news. May I encourage you to call them directly on their mobiles, if required.

### Interest rates likely to rise before Christmas?

Mark Crosby  
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The Rudd government maintains it would be disastrous to start winding back its \$43 billion second-stage budget stimulus because key parts of the economy are now weakening sharply in the face of the global crisis.

But Reserve Bank governor Glenn Stevens appears more inclined to listen to Harvey Norman chairman Gerry Harvey who says the economy is growing stronger and stronger each day.

As a result the Reserve Bank is likely to lift interest rates much earlier than expected.

That means a pre-Xmas rise as early as five weeks away.

*The Australian, p19, 31 Aug 09*

### 'Revenue from the huge Gorgon LNG project in doubt

Sam Wiley  
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Australian liquefied natural gas exports jumped to a record high in the June quarter. This offset a big drop in LNG prices. The drop puts questions marks over the government's \$50 billion revenue expectations for one of the contracts on the huge Gorgon LNG project.

At June quarter prices, Exxon-Mobil's recent deal to sell China 2.25 million tonnes of LNG would be worth about \$15 billion not the \$50 billion the Rudd government speaks of.

*The Australian, p21, 2 Sept 09*

### Middle-East threat to gas boom profits

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Australia's much vaunted liquefied natural gas boom is at risk of being swamped by massive volumes of low-cost gas out of

the Middle East nation of Qatar, the world's largest LNG producer.

The 3 joint venture partners in the \$50 million Gorgon gas project in WA – Chevron, ExxonMobil and Royal Dutch Shell – are planning to sign off on the development at a meeting in Perth as early as today after the operator, Chevron announced major gas supply contracts with two Japanese utilities last week.

But the prospect of a major push into Asia by Qatar threatens to scuttle the development timelines of many of the Australian projects and raised the prospect of local companies being forced to accept cut-price sales contracts in order to get their development off the ground.

*AFR, P1, 14 Sept-09*

Good luck. If you have any trouble getting through to anyone please feel free to call me anytime, day or evening on my mobile. If your story is not covered here, [go here](http://www.mbs.edu/go/news-and-events/media-centre/hot-issues) - <http://www.mbs.edu/go/news-and-events/media-centre/hot-issues> to find all of our media friendly faculty and their specializations.

Kind regards

Lauraine

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