**Australian High Commission**

**Colombo**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 July 2017**

**Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs visits Sri Lanka**

Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop MP, arrives in Sri Lanka today for a two day visit.

In Colombo, Minister Bishop will meet her Sri Lankan counterpart Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake for the first time to discuss ongoing bilateral and regional security cooperation, the development partnership and new economic opportunities in sciences, resources and energy.

Minister Bishop will also meet HE President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Wickremesinghe to explore ways to build on already strong bilateral ties. Minister Bishop will take the opportunity to discuss with Government leaders and Opposition Leader R. Sampanthan current progress in Sri Lanka’s reconciliation journey, which Australia continues to support.

Minister Bishop will also announce Australian assistance to combat dengue fever in Sri Lanka during her visit, continuing a long history of development cooperation between our two countries.

2017 marks a significant milestone for Australia and Sri Lanka – 70 years of diplomatic relations. Minister Bishop’s visit will highlight again the increasingly close and productive bilateral relationship.

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