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MEDIA RELEASE

GLITTERING TREASURES ENCASED IN PERTH MINT LOCKET COIN SERIES

Treasures of Australia is a new Perth Mint coin program celebrating Australia's status as one of the world's most abundant sources of natural riches.

Comprising coins struck from 1oz of 99.99% pure gold and 1oz of 99.9% pure silver in proof quality, the program is based on the 'locket' coin concept, an award-winning numismatic innovation.

The first gold and silver releases, which bear the 2007 year-date, portray an abstract interpretation of Australia's stark and beautiful landscape. On both coins, the design surrounds a transparent half-circle locket containing approximately 1-carat of genuine blue sapphires.

Issued as Australian legal tender, no more than 1,000 gold and 7,500 silver locket coins containing sapphires will be released by The Perth Mint. Each coin, which bears the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse, is housed in a presentation case and illustrated shipper, accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

Sapphires have been mined commercially in Australia since the 19th century, primarily in Queensland and New South Wales. As well as being a leading sapphire miner, Australia supplies about 95 per cent of the world's opal for use in jewellery; produces nearly twice the diamond output of any other country from its famous Argyle deposit alone; is one of the world's top-three gold producing nations; and is also the world's largest producer of white South Sea pearls.

Scheduled for release between 2007 and 2011, the remarkable 'locket' coin program will pay homage to all five of these natural Australian treasures.

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PICTURE EDITORS: Images of the 2007 Treasures of Australia Gold and Silver Locket Coins can be downloaded from the folder titled September 2007 at