

## **Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter**

### **No. 44 New developments in Australia and Japan towards a post-COVID-19 world**

9 July 2021

When will travel between Japan and Australia become easier again? In Australia, since the end of June, one after the other individual states have introduced stay-at-home orders due to the outbreak and spread of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. Under such circumstances, the National Cabinet of the Australian Government met on 2 July and announced its policy formulation for the "National Plan to transition Australia's COVID-19 Response", which will ease restrictions, including international travel restrictions, over 4 phases through increased vaccinations.

In Japan, the Tokyo Olympics start on 23 July. National teams are arriving non-stop from around the world and they are entering training camps across Japan. In order that competition can take place safely, the best possible COVID-19 measures are being implemented in Japan. In addition, Japan has achieved the goal of 1 million vaccinations per day and every effort is being made to expand vaccinations.

Japan and Australia are not only taking domestic measures; they are both making contributions to global COVID-19 measures. On 2 June, Japan co-hosted the COVAX AMC Summit with Gavi (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations). On 2 July, the Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 9) was held with the prime ministers of Japan and Tuvalu as co-chairs, and COVID-19 response and recovery was one of the priority areas covered at PALM 9. Australia made significant contributions at both fora.

Here in Sydney, to make the most of the increased interest in Japan in the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, preparations are underway for Japanaroo 2021 with the aim of creating momentum for greater Japan-Australia cooperation and exchange upon the resumption of international travel post-COVID.

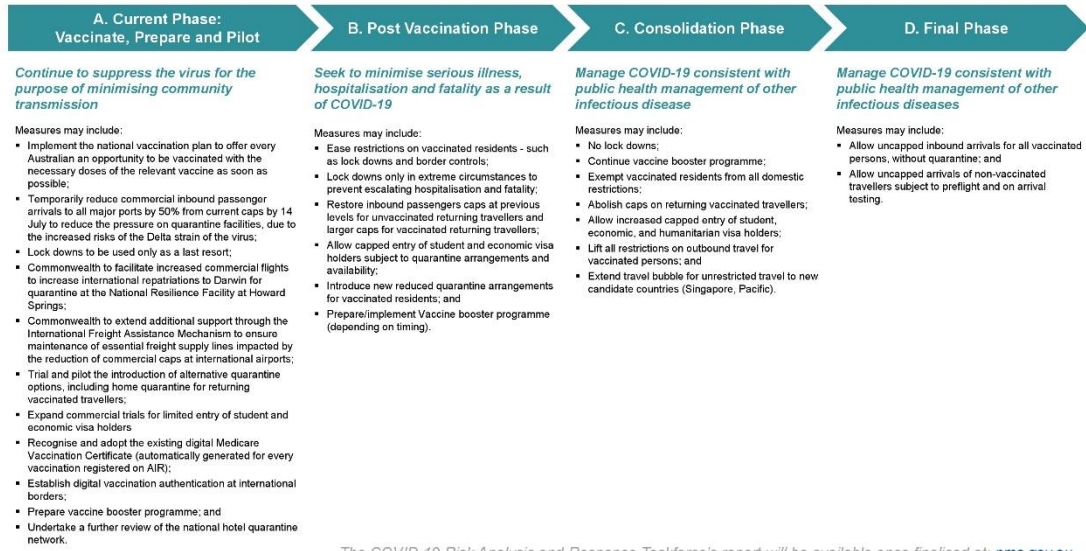
In this issue of my newsletter, as I introduce the latest measures that both Japan and Australia are making towards a post-COVID world, I invite you to consider with me the role that we can all play going forward.



## National Plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response

National Cabinet agreed to formulate a national plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response from its current pre vaccination settings, focussing on continued suppression of community transmission, to post vaccination settings focussed on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality, and the public health management of other infectious diseases

Phases triggered by the achievement of vaccination thresholds expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (16+), based on the scientific modelling conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force



The COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Taskforce’s report will be available once finalised at: [pmc.gov.au](https://pmc.gov.au)

## National Plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response (2 July 2021)

### ● National Plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response

On 2 July, Australia’s National Cabinet agreed to formulate the “National Plan to transition Australia’s National COVID-19 Response” in order to transition from the current “pre-vaccination” settings, focusing on continued suppression of the virus for the purpose of minimising community transmission, to “post-vaccination” settings, focusing on the prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality.

The National Plan consists of 4 phases – phases A to D – and these phases will be triggered by the achievement of vaccination thresholds expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (aged 16+), based on the scientific modelling currently conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force.

Phase A (the first and current phase – Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot) will increase the pace of vaccination while suppressing the virus to minimize community transmission. To reduce the pressure on quarantine facilities caused by the increased risks of the

Delta strain of the virus, the number of international arrivals will be temporarily reduced by 50%. Lockdowns will be used only as a last resort. Commercial trials for limited entry of student and economic visa holders will be expanded, and digital vaccination authentication at international borders will be established.

In Phase B (Post Vaccination Phase), serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality as a result of COVID-19 will be minimised. For vaccinated residents, restrictions will be eased and lockdowns will only be implemented in extreme circumstances to prevent escalating hospitalisations and fatality. Inbound passenger caps for unvaccinated returning travellers will be restored to previous levels, and there will be larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers. Student and economic visa holders will be allowed to enter the country up to a set number, subject to quarantine arrangements and availability.

In Phase C (Consolidation Phase), COVID-19 will be managed consistent with public health management of other infectious diseases. There will be no lockdowns, and vaccinated residents will be exempt from all domestic restrictions with caps on returning vaccinated travellers and restrictions of outbound vaccinated persons abolished. The number of student and economic visa holders will be increased and the travel bubble for unrestricted travel to new candidate countries (Singapore, Pacific nations) will be extended.

Phase D (Final Phase) will allow uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine, and allow uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to pre-flight and on-arrival testing.

At the media conference after the National Cabinet Meeting on 2 July, the government expressed its hope to set the vaccination thresholds for moving from one phase to the next over the course of this month. The government also stated that the aim is to have all those Australians who want access to vaccines this year will be able to do so.

Up until now, including the period in late June, individual state governments have frequently introduced lockdowns and border restrictions, and depending on the state, the criteria behind their decisions have been diverse. Given that the early reopening of national borders will be a major issue from here on, I think it is a significant step forward for the National Cabinet to unify the fundamental stance of the federal and

all state governments on COVID-19 restrictions. Furthermore, if vaccinations in Australia progress steadily and the vaccination rate increases, progress between the four phases mentioned above will be achieved one by one.

With the recent announcement, and the upcoming announcement about the required vaccination rates to transition through the phases, I hope that preparations will be made towards the resumption and expansion of travel between Japan and Australia, by students and business people, and even tourists.




NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian's media conference  
(5 July 2021, NSW Health Facebook)

- **Stay-at-home orders and lockdown in NSW and the NT**

In the Greater Sydney area, stay-at-home orders have been introduced for three weeks from 26 June to 16 July, due to the spread of people infected by the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. During this period, the NSW Premier has faced daily media conferences, including on the weekends. The Premier carefully explained that after taking due consideration of the importance of business, the current stay-at-home orders were exceptional and essential, and that if residents in the affected areas observed the restrictions such as the stay-at-home orders, regulations could be eased promptly. Seeing this, I once again felt the importance of strategic communication during times of the urgency.



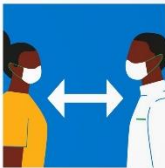



The Northern Territory was also affected after mine workers in the territory became infected with the Delta variant and travelled to various places. As a result, from 27 June to 2 July, a lockdown was implemented for the first time in Darwin and Alice Springs, and even after the lockdown, regulations such as mandatory mask-wearing on public transportation have continued until 9 July. Chief Minister Gunner has also held consecutive daily media conferences, carefully explaining in an easy-to-understand manner the latest situation and the reasons behind various regulations.

From now on, in both NSW and the NT, increasing the rate of vaccinations will be an important task. This consulate has issued consular emails with the latest information regarding vaccinations in both jurisdictions. I hope that these will be useful to Japanese nationals living in NSW and the NT.


Principles 7

## MINIMISE PHYSICAL INTERACTION

COVID-19 is transmitted through infected droplets in our breath exhaled by coughing, sneezing, talking, shouting or singing – and is passed from person to person when we are in close contact. The risks of catching COVID-19 grow in crowded, poorly-aired spaces and when we spend time in proximity to those who are infected with COVID-19. That is why it is important to minimise social interaction, wear a mask, and avoid the 3Cs: spaces that are confined/enclosed, crowded or involve close contact.

<p>#1</p> 	<p>Keep physical interactions with others to a minimum (and don't forget to wear your mask!)</p>	<p>#2</p> 	<p>Avoid physical contact, including hugs and handshakes</p>	<p>#3</p> 	<p>Keep two metres' distance from athletes and at least one metre from others, including in operational spaces</p>
<p>#4</p> 	<p>Avoid enclosed spaces and crowds where possible</p>	<p>#5</p> 	<p>Use dedicated Games vehicles. Do not use public transport unless it is the only option to reach certain locations such as remote venues</p>	<p>#6</p> 	<p>Only carry out the activities submitted in your Activity Plan, at places on the list of permitted destinations</p>

Third version of the Tokyo 2020 Playbook (rulebook)  
(Published 15 June 2021)

### ● Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

In Japan, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will finally be held. The Olympics are scheduled from Friday 23 July to Sunday 8 August, and the Paralympics from Tuesday 24 August to Sunday 5 September.

In order to achieve a safe and secure Games for all participants and the people of Japan, organisers are implementing thorough measures against COVID-19. On 15 June, the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 published the third edition of the Tokyo 2020 Playbooks (rulebooks) which summarises COVID-19 measures that participants should observe at the Tokyo 2020 Games. On 21 June, the IOC, IPC, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Government of Japan agreed on the maximum number of spectators and various appropriate countermeasures. Since the announcement, Japan has continued to implement strict measures against COVID-19 and vaccination is also progressing.

Different Olympic sports teams from Australia (sending a total of team of 472 athletes) are arriving in Japan one after the other, including the first to touch down, the women's softball team. The Australian Olympic Team itself is breaking records with 252 women on the team and 16 Indigenous athletes, and I am looking forward to watching them compete from the end of this month.





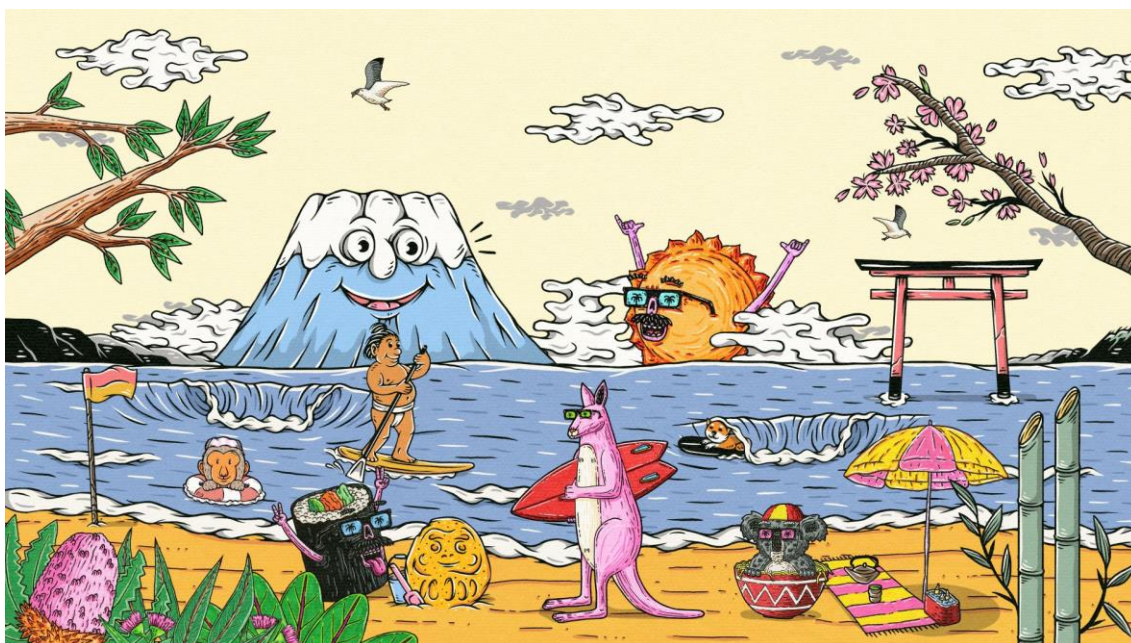
**Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 9)  
(2 July 2021, Cabinet Public Relations Office)**

● **Vaccine Summit and Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting**

Japan is not only stepping up the speed of its measures against COVID-19 ahead of the Olympics, which are just around the corner. It is also contributing to global measures against the virus. On 2 June, Japan and Gavi co-hosted the COVAX AMC Summit as an online summit. Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide co-chaired the meeting with Mr José Manuel Barroso, Gavi Board Chair, and Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu took the role of facilitator. During the Summit, many additional pledges were announced from governments, including by the Australian Government, and the private sector. As a result, we were able to secure well beyond the target of \$8.3 billion USD to secure vaccine doses to protect nearly 30 percent of the population in AMC-eligible developing countries.

Later, there was the G7 Summit in Cornwall and the Japan-Australia Leaders' Summit held on the sidelines of the G7, and on 2 July, the 9th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) was held in the form of videoconference, co-chaired by Prime Minister Suga and the Hon. Kausea Natano, Prime Minister of Tuvalu. "COVID-19 Response and Recovery" was one of 5 priority areas discussed. Prime Minister Suga

announced that Japan intends to provide Pacific Island countries with a total of approximately 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines by around the end of the year including through the COVAX Facility, as well as with cold chain equipment and medical capabilities development for vaccination, and Pacific Island countries expressed their gratitude for this support.



Japanaroo 2021 key visual  
(Released on 1 July 2021)

- **Japanaroo 2021 website goes live**

Here in Sydney, to make the most of the increased interest in Japan in the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, preparations are steadily progressing for Japanaroo 2021, which will take place in late August.

On 1 July, the Japanaroo 2021 website went live, and the details of events by multiple Japan-Australia related groups started to be uploaded. The website also has messages from HE Yamagami Shingo, Ambassador of Japan to Australia, and the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, Premier of NSW.

Since last year, COVID-19 has made international travel very difficult. However, in Australia, there is a large Japanese community, and by using online tools, it is possible for us to “bring Japan to Australia”.



I hope that Japanaroo 2021 will be a chance for more people to know about Japan's wide-ranging contributions to Australia and the importance of Japan-Australia exchange. It is my heartfelt wish that, once travel resumes between Japan and Australia, Japanaroo 2021 leads to a dramatic development in exchange and business between our two countries.



**Dawn over Sydney Harbour  
(8 July 2021)**

● **Japan and Australia's role towards a post-COVID world**

For Australia and for Japan, now is the critical moment for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, for increasing the rate of vaccination and for working towards the resumption of international travel. For the future development of both countries, it is important to progress COVID-19 countermeasures not only domestically, but globally. Both countries will cooperate closely and continue their efforts to this end.

The current community-transmitted spread of the Delta variant in Sydney has made me realise again the importance of each and everyone of us properly observing the

COVID-19 restrictions in order to achieve a sense of community well-being and safety and to reopen and develop the economy. And next month, centred on Sydney, Japanaroo 2021 will be held. Going forward, by supporting as many individual efforts and activities as possible, I would like to continue to contribute to the development of both Japan and Australia, and the world.

National Cabinet Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response - media release – Prime Minister of Australia's website

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-6>

Information regarding NSW and NT COVID-19 measures

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

Tokyo 2020 Olympics COVID-19 measures - playbook and spectator numbers

<https://olympics.com/tokyo-2020/en/games/tokyo-2020-playbooks/>

<https://olympics.com/tokyo-2020/en/news/up-to-10-000-spectators-allowed-for-each-sporting-event-at-the-olympic-games>

Official announcement of the Australian Olympic Team (5 July 2021)

<https://olympics.com/tokyo-2020/en/news/australia-break-records-with-472-member-team-for-tokyo-2020-games>

COVAX AMC Summit - overview of outcomes (2 June 2021)

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e\\_000326.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000326.html)

The Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) - overview of outcomes (2 July 2021)

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/a\\_o/ocn/page3e\\_001123.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/ocn/page3e_001123.html)

Japanaroo 2021 website and social media

<https://japanaroo.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Japanaroo/>

<https://www.instagram.com/japanaroo/>

[https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/Japanaroo.html](https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/Japanaroo.html)

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