

Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter
No. 66 NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles' visit to Japan

1 August 2022



**Luncheon meeting between Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Miyake and Northern Territory Chief Minister Fyles**

The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon. Natasha Fyles MLA, [visited Japan](#) from 18 to 21 July. It was her first overseas visit since assuming office and the first visit by the Northern Territory's top minister in almost four years, when then Chief Minister Michael Gunner went to Japan in November 2018. For Chief Minister Fyles, it was in fact her very first time to go to Japan.

In this issue of my newsletter, I would like to report on the overview and outcomes of Chief Minister Fyles' visit to Japan and consider future initiatives to further develop relations between Japan and the Northern Territory.



A photo NT Chief Minister Fyles posted to her Facebook with former Prime Minister Abe (photo taken 17 November 2018, posted 8 July 2022)

- **Meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyake**

One day after her arrival, on 19 July, Chief Minister Fyles exchanged views with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs MIYAKE Shingo at a [luncheon meeting](#) hosted at the Official Residence of the Australian Embassy by Mr Peter Roberts OAM, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Miyake welcomed Chief Minister Fyles, whose visit to Japan was her first overseas visit since assuming office. Stating that the Northern Territory is an important partner from the perspective of energy security among others, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Miyake also expressed his intention to further strengthen the “Special Strategic Partnership” between Japan and Australia. In addition, he expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Fyles for her heartfelt condolences upon the passing of former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo, which she extended via social media using images of the former Prime Minister during his visit to Darwin.

In response, Chief Minister Fyles stated that cooperation is progressing broadly across the energy sector including LNG, CCS (carbon capture and storage) and hydrogen.

Both ministers agreed to take the opportunity of this visit to Japan to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and the Northern Territory.



Chief Minister Fyles with INPEX Chair Kitamura and
INPEX President and CEO Ueda
(20 July 2022, Chief Minister Fyles' Facebook)

• Signing of a Statement of Commitment with INPEX

In the Northern Territory, INPEX CORPORATION is the operator of the Ichthys LNG project, one of world's largest overseas investments by a Japanese company. The project contributes significantly to the economies of both Japan and the Northern Territory and is a true symbol of Australia-Japan cooperation. On 20 July, Chief Minister Fyles met with Mr KITAMURA Toshiaki, Chairman of INPEX, and Mr UEDA Takayuki, President and CEO of INPEX, and they signed a Statement of Commitment. (Media releases: [NT Government](#), [INPEX](#))

The statement of commitment aims to further ties between the Northern Territory and INPEX and targets a future net zero emissions society and economic and social development within a new competitive environment.

Negotiations are due to take place with the goal of increasing LNG production capacity and expanding onshore production facilities, increasing stable and clean energy supply and security for the Asia/Oceania region, promoting the Darwin CCUS hub with INPEX as an operator, improving local skills development and services and supply capability, and establishing renewable energy targets.



Chief Minister Fyles with NEC Corporation President and CEO Morita
(19 July 2022)

● Visit to NEC Corporation

In the afternoon of 19 July, Chief Minister Fyles also visited and toured NEC Headquarters and exchanged views with Mr MORITA Takayuki, President and CEO of NEC Corporation.

The Northern Territory and NEC signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) in April this year. They agreed to cooperate to develop a sustainable innovation ecosystem and grow the Territory's digital capabilities. It follows significant private sector investment in subsea fibre optic cable and data centre infrastructure.

The MoU identifies key areas of digital development for both the NT Government and NEC and allows NEC to explore the use of its world-leading technologies, such as submarine cable systems, 5G, and AI in the Territory, as well as building industry training opportunities for Territorians.

NEC already employs approximately 200 people in the Northern Territory. I am hopeful that NEC will significantly contribute to the strengthening of economic ties between the Northern Territory and Japan.



At Darwin Airport during my eighth business trip to Darwin
(6 June 2022)

- **Towards ever stronger ties with the Northern Territory**

During her visit to Japan, Chief Minister Fyles was also present at the 20 July [project-boosting signing](#) between Amphibian Aerospace Industries (AAI) and ShinMaywa. ShinMaywa is based in Shinmeiwa-cho in Takarazuka City, Hyogo Prefecture, and has been manufacturing for more than 100 years. It developed the ShinMaywa US-2 amphibious flying boat. AAI is in the process of developing Australia's first manufacture and export of amphibious aircraft in Darwin and is being supported by the Northern Territory Government.

Also on 20 July, Chief Minister Fyles held an investment briefing for approximately 20 Japanese companies, introducing business opportunities in clean energy, critical minerals and the aerospace sector.

Chief Minister Fyles' visit to Japan made me feel that significant progress has been made on issues that I have been involved over the course of my 8 visits to Darwin during the past 2½ years. To ensure that they are steadily realised, I would like to further promote wide-ranging cooperation – including tourism and cultural and people-to-people exchanges – between Japan and the Northern Territory.

Kiya Masahiko, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney