

**A message from the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia on the occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.**

On behalf of the people of the Northern Territory of Australia, I wish to congratulate His Majesty Emperor Naruhito on the occasion of his 61<sup>st</sup> Birthday.

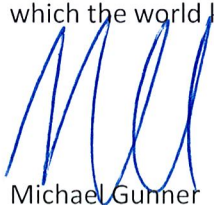
I would like to take this opportunity to assure His Majesty that the Northern Territory deeply values the relationship we are fortunate to share with Japan and that we consider that our friendship will only deepen in coming decades.

The Northern Territory and Japan have forged a strong and trusted bond in business. Your nation is the Northern Territory's largest international trading and investment partner through the Ichthys LNG Project, which is also Japan's biggest-ever offshore investment.

In 2019, we were privileged to welcome the Ichthys board to Darwin, which was the first time the board had met outside of Japan.

Our defence forces have come together for exercises and our mutual strategic values will ensure those ties are only going to become stronger.

I acknowledge His Majesty as an accomplished, erudite and modern leader who is looked to warmly by his people. I wish you continuing good health and all the very best for the 2021 Olympic Games, which the world keenly awaits.



Michael Gunner

Chief Minister of the Northern Territory