

## JAEPA in NSW

Japan remains New South Wales' largest export market, so the JAEPA should create greater opportunities for NSW businesses to expand in the Japanese market.

Currently coal is NSW's number one export item to Japan, worth \$6.3bn in 2012-2013. Japan's energy profile means it is heavily dependent on imports and this will continue for the foreseeable future.

Japan's agricultural tariffs are set to be significantly reduced and in this sector there will be several important opportunities for NSW producers.

Beef is NSW's most important agricultural commodity export to Japan. Australian beef producers will have an immediate advantage over their competitors thanks to large cuts under the JAEPA.



Nationally NSW accounts for almost a third of all wine produced and already passengers on Japan's shinkansen trains can enjoy wines from Port Macquarie. Bulk wine will gain from tariff elimination immediately the JAEPA enters into force, and bottled and sparkling wine will benefit from quick tariff elimination.

Fruit and vegetables (and nuts and juice) will immediately benefit as the vast majority of tariffs on Australian horticultural products are eliminated under the agreement. With opposite seasons, Australia will be able to provide fruit and vegetables during their off-season. NSW exports fruits such as oranges and grapes, and nuts such as macadamias—Japan is Australia's largest export market for macadamias.

Nationally NSW is a significant producer of dairy and sugar and these items are also among a wide range of other agricultural products set to benefit under reduced or eliminated tariffs.

## New JETs farewelled for departure

Since 1987, new groups of young university graduates have left Australia to take up positions on the Japanese Government's Japan Exchange and Teaching Program known as the JET Program. On Wednesday 16 July, a reception was held to farewell the latest group of JETs from New South Wales at the official residence of Consul-General Masato Takaoka.



**NSW participants on the 2014-2015 JET Program with Consul-General Masato Takaoka [front centre]**

There are two main positions on the JET program: ALTs, assistant language teachers who work together with Japanese teachers of English within the state school system, and CIRs, co-ordinators of international relations who are based at government offices to assist with internationalisation at the local level.

At the reception, the participants were joined by supporters of the program, including members of JETAA NSW and academics who were part of the JET interview panels which selected the 2014-2015 JETs from NSW.

Coming the week after the visit to Australia by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Consul-General Takaoka noted:

*Australia and Japan have a very special and deep relationship. We are important trading and strategic partners. Last week, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, visited Australia, speaking before the Australian federal parliament and signing a historic trade deal between our two countries. This is one level of the Japan-Australia relationship. But as a member of the JET Program, you too have a responsibility to help strengthen and grow the bonds of friendship between our two countries. Please do not underestimate the importance of your role. Grass roots cultural exchange is a part of any strong relationship.*

Charged with this mission, the main group of new JETs left Sydney on 26 July; a further group of four left on 19 August.

This year there are 29 ALTs and 3 CIRs from NSW. The new JETs join the 2014-2015 program and have the option to stay in Japan for up to five years on the program. While in Japan they will be important members of their local communities promoting friendship and understanding, and it is hoped that on their return to Australia they will continue to contribute to the relationship between Japan and Australia.

**Applications for the 2015-2016 JET intake will open earlier this year, in September. Details of procedures and information sessions will be made available on our website.**