

Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter
No. 67 NSW Premier Dom Perrottet's visit to Japan

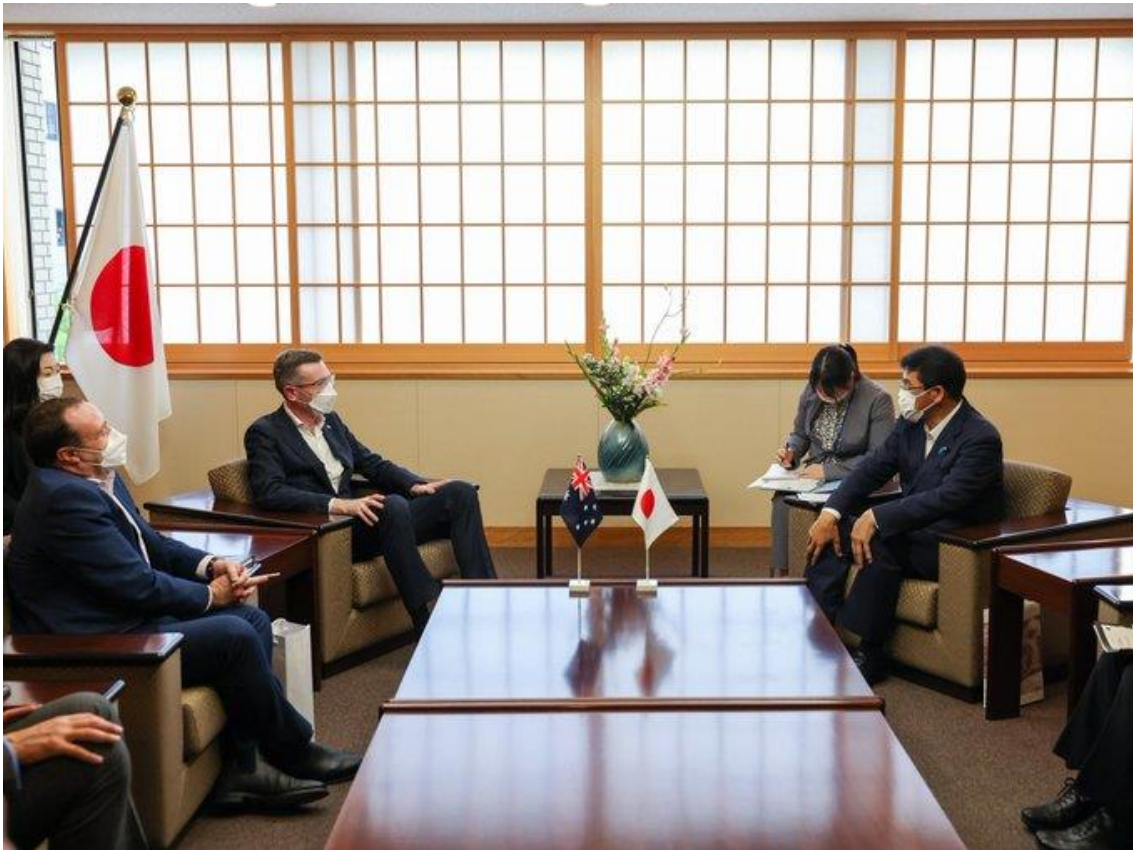
1 August 2022



Meeting between Premier Perrottet and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyake (22 July 2022)

The Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, visited Japan from 21 to 24 July. It was his first overseas visit since assuming office in October last year. Choosing Japan as his first destination shows the importance he places on Japan. As well as Tokyo, together with a group of NSW high school students he also visited Hiroshima.

NSW has the largest population and economy of any Australian state, and over many years, Japan and NSW have developed wide-ranging ties in trade and investment, and people-to-people ties. This visit by Premier Perrottet builds on these foundations and will create new ties, including through the opening of a new office in Tokyo and the promotion of energy transition. In this issue of my newsletter, I would like to give an overview of the Premier's visit to Japan and consider ways in which we can further develop cooperation between Japan and NSW.



The meeting between Premier Perrottet and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyake (22 July 2022, Premier Perrottet's Twitter)

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

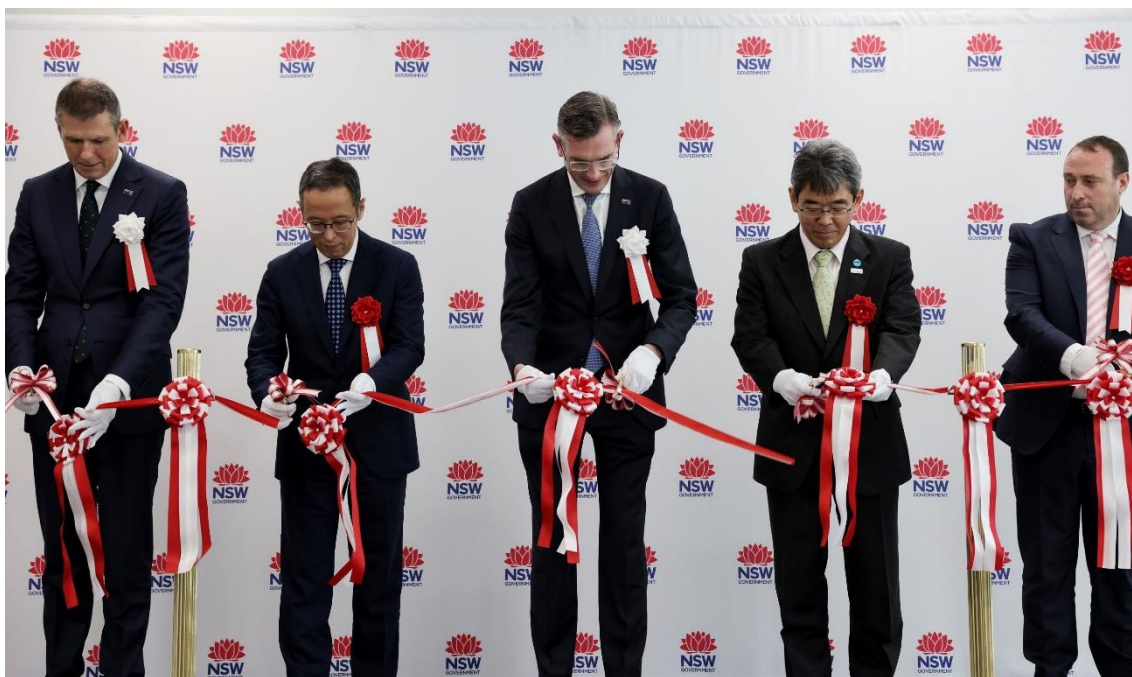
On 22 July, Premier Perrottet visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and [met with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs MIYAKE Shingo](#).

To begin, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Miyake stated that New South Wales, which has Australia's largest economy and is home to many Japanese expatriates and Japanese companies, is a special place for Japan with deep people-to-people and economic ties to Japan. In addition, he expressed his gratitude to Premier Perrottet for his heartfelt message upon the passing of former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo, and conveyed how the people of Japan were moved by the lighting up of the Sydney Opera House.

In response, Premier Perrottet expressed his wish to further expand trade, investment and people-to-people exchange through discussions with the Japanese government and business representatives he would be meeting during this visit to Japan.

The Parliamentary Vice-Minister and the Premier agreed to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and New South Wales, and Japan and Australia.

I was delighted to hear from people who were also present that it was a very good meeting.



The opening ceremony of the NSW Government's Tokyo office
(21 July 2022 – photo courtesy NSW Government)

- **Opening ceremony of the NSW Government's office in Japan**

One of the objectives of the NSW Premier's visit to Japan was to officially open the NSW Government's office in Japan.

In March last year, the NSW Government established Invest NSW which is responsible for broad-based foreign economic relations, and in July 2021, [Mr Michael Newman was appointed as the trade and investment commissioner to be based in Japan.](#) Based in Sydney, Commissioner Newman worked to broaden the NSW-Japan network within Australia, and after COVID restrictions were eased in May this year, he arrived in Japan. From June, he began to operate from the office in Kyobashi Trust Tower, located in Chuo-ku, and then the office was formally opened during the Premier's visit to Japan.

Also present at the [opening ceremony](#), held in the morning of 21 July, were Mr Peter Roberts, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim at the Australian Embassy, Tokyo, Mr YAMAMOTO Kaisei, Special Advisor to the Governor of Tokyo for International Affairs, Mr NOBUTANI Kazushige, Deputy Chairman of JETRO, and Ms Elizabeth Cox, Minister (Commercial) at the Australian Embassy, Tokyo.

Premier Perrottet stated that NSW’s stronger presence in Japan would deepen relations, accelerate investment and export opportunities, and create opportunities and prosperity.



Premier Perrottet’s speech at the NSW Government reception
(21 July 2022, Premier Perrottet’s Twitter)

- **Reception hosted by the NSW Government**

In the evening of 21 July, the NSW Government held a reception at a hotel in Tokyo city. At the reception, Premier Perrottet gave a speech to Japanese company representatives and he also greeted each company individually. The long queue of business people that you can see in a [video on Premier Perrottet’s Facebook](#) is truly symbolic of the broad relationship between NSW and Japan.

This is the first time since I assumed this position that the NSW Premier has had the opportunity to meet and interact directly with such a large number of Japanese business people at the one time, and I believe it will be a great help for participating companies to take their business to the next level.

In addition to this, Premier Perrottet had several bilateral meetings. On 22 July, he had a meeting with Hitachi's Vice President and Executive Director in charge of Regional Strategies [APAC] and it was announced that Hitachi would become the first private-sector tenant in the Bradfield City Centre's First Building by establishing the [Kyoso \(collaborative creation\) Centre in 2023](#). This is in line with the NSW Government's investment in the Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility (AMRF) in this precinct.



Meeting with Tokyo Governor Koike
(21 July 2022, Premier Perrottet's Twitter)

- **Meeting with Tokyo Governor Koike**

After the NSW Government reception on 21 July, Premier Perrottet met with the Governor of Tokyo, Ms KOIKE Yuriko.

Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the NSW Government [signed a sister state relationship agreement](#) in 1984. In 2015, they [signed an agreement](#) to cooperate and engage in exchange in three areas: sports, education and urban development. There has been a renewal of Memoranda of Understanding in the field of education as well as reciprocal exchange of departmental staff relating to urban development and improvement. Tokyo Metropolitan Government also contributed to the creation of Cowra's Japanese garden, and memorabilia from the time is on display at the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre.

Until last year, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were the major pillar of international exchange for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and working under strict COVID-19 regulations, Tokyo Metropolitan Government made a significant contribution to the realisation of the Games. I hope that the Premier's visit and the continued easing of COVID-19 regulations will be an opportunity for greater exchange between Tokyo Metropolitan Government and NSW Government.

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Observing a hydrogen station belonging to Iwatani Corporation
(22 July 2022, Premier Perrottet's Twitter)

- **Observing a hydrogen station**

On 22 July, Premier Perrottet viewed a hydrogen station at Shibakoen owned by Iwatani Corporation. For many years, Japan has imported coal from NSW, however, in the future, as we move towards a decarbonised society, we need to transition to clean energy such as hydrogen and ammonia.

Today, Japan-Australia cooperation is progressing towards realising a hydrogen society, and this is likely to become a major pillar of Japan-NSW cooperation. Not only did NSW announce its [hydrogen policy](#) last year, in cooperation with Queensland and Victoria, a [hydrogen station network is being created](#) on the Australian east coast. It is anticipated that cooperation with the Japanese government and Japanese businesses will also increase in NSW as we work towards the creation of a hydrogen supply chain.



Touring the Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel
(24 July 2022, Premier Perrottet's Twitter)

- **Touring the Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel**

Recently, flood damage has been a major issue in NSW. On 24 July, Premier Perrottet toured the [Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel](#) located in Kasukabe City in Saitama Prefecture.

This discharge channel system has approximately 6.3km of underground tunnels which are around 10 metres in diameter, and pressurized water tanks that are 177m long and 78m wide with a 'forest' of 59 giant concrete pillars – this can store approximately 670,000 m³ of water. The facility was constructed from 1993 to 2006 at a total cost of around 230 billion yen. Seven to eight times every year, flood waters run through this underground structure and are discharged into the Edo River, reducing the flood water damage in the region.

I hope that by introducing this type of Japanese technology, flood damage can be eliminated in NSW.



Tourism roundtable
(22 July 2022, Premier Perrottet's Twitter)

- **Tourism roundtable**

Another major pillar in the development of stronger Japan-NSW ties is tourism. People-to-people exchange, including school trips and study abroad, is an important resource that not only contributes to economic development, but also deepens mutual understanding and trust. On 22 July, Premier Perrottet had a [lunch meeting](#) where he exchanged views with representatives from approximately 10 Japanese airline and travel companies.

As I introduced in a recent [newsletter](#), in May this year the Australia Tourism Exchange 2022 was held here in Sydney and many Japanese companies participated, even coming from Japan to attend. It is hoped that through such high-level direct dialogue, tourism and study abroad will be further deepened.

In fact, I have also recently cooperated with the Study NSW and sent a [video](#) message to young Japanese to study abroad in NSW. We want to build momentum through our combined efforts.



Single O Café (22 July 2022, Premier Perrottet's Twitter)

● Visit to Single O Café

Connections between Japan and NSW are also emerging in the lifestyle sector. On 22 July, Premier Perrottet visited the Single O Café which originates in Sydney. In October 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, [Single O Hamacho](#) was opened in Hamacho, Nihonbashi (Tokyo). The Premier introduced the visit in a [video on his Facebook](#).

Mr Yu Yamamoto, the current head of Single O Japan, started working at the main Single O Café in Surry Hills, Sydney, in 2008. In 2014, he launched Single O Japan and began operating the shop's first overseas coffee roaster in Ryogoku, Tokyo. Then last year, Single O Hamacho was opened and offered Freepour Coffee On Tap, espresso coffees and the food menu which has been well loved in Sydney for many years. The café has gained attention in the Japanese media, for example in "[A new kind of café from Sydney where coffee is on tap 「蛇口からコーヒーが出るシドニー発の新感覚カフェ」](#)" and "[An interior mixing Sydney and Nihonbashi style 「シドニーと日本橋のイメージをミックスした内装」](#)".

From here in Sydney, I would also like to promote the attractions of the Australian lifestyle through shops such as this that enable elements of the Australian lifestyle to be enjoyed even in Japan.



**Premier Perrottet and Minister for Transport and Veterans Elliot
boarding a shinkansen (23 July 2022, AAP Image/Bianca De Marchi)**

- **Travelling to Hiroshima by shinkansen**

The weekend (23 July) saw Premier Perrottet board a shinkansen with the Hon. David Elliot, NSW Minister for Transport and Minister for Veterans, to travel to Hiroshima accompanying a group of NSW high school students who were on a study trip to Tokyo, Hiroshima and Hawaii.

In Australia, the introduction of a high speed train has been a topic for many years. In May, just after his inauguration, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Japan for the Quad Leaders' Summit, and at the time, he disclosed a high level of interest in high speed rail, mentioning Japan's shinkansen. Furthermore, in its 2022-23 budget, the NSW Government [announced](#) a \$500 million commitment towards fast rail, matching \$500 million in federal funding for fast rail announced by Prime Minister Albanese prior to the federal election.

I hope that the Premier and Minister's recent trip on the shinkansen will lead to the realization of high speed rail in Australia through Federal and NSW Government cooperation.



**Laying wreaths at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial
(23 July 2022, Premier Perrottet's Twitter)**

● Visit to Hiroshima

In Hiroshima, Premier Perrottet, Minister Elliot and six NSW high school students visited the Genbaku Dome. They laid wreaths at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and also heard the testimony of a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Premier Perrottet spoke about his impressions of the visit to Hiroshima in a [video on his Facebook](#) page.

The students participating in the tour had written a 1,000 word essay in response to the question “Are the lessons of WWII still relevant today?” as part of a [competition to win a place](#) on the [ClubsNSW Premier's WWII Memorial Tour](#), which went to Tokyo, Hiroshima and Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. Before the tour began, I attended the prize ceremony and farewell in Sydney for the students together with Premier Perrottet, Minister Elliot and Sydney-based US Consul-General Christine Elder.

During WWII, Japan fought against the United States and Australia, but 77 years after the war, it is deeply moving to think that Japan, the United State and Australia now cooperate closely. It is a wonderful to see this new opportunity to commit to the

realisation of peace, as the next generation of high school students learn about the history of war at the actual locations of former conflict and through this deepen exchange.



At the main Single O Café in Surry Hills
(30 July 2022)

- **Towards an even stronger Japan-NSW relationship**

While I was unable to accompany Premier Perrottet on his visit to Japan, I did all I could to assist with preparations here in Sydney. The Premier's schedule included a wide range of events which reflected the broad nature of cooperation between Japan and NSW, and I was pleased to see how successful the Premier's trip was.

Going forward, I intend to follow up the results of the visit here in Sydney and to make concrete progress. Last weekend, I made a point of immediately visiting the main Single O Café in Surry Hills ☺ ! And more seriously, writing about the Premier's visit in this newsletter to share with others is one type of follow up.

In order to strengthen Japan and Australia's "Special Strategic Partnership" for the benefit of both countries and the world, deepening cooperation between Japan and NSW, which has both the largest population and economy of all Australian states, is essential. To this end, I would like to cooperate further with you all and ask for your continued support.

Kiya Masahiko, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney