



39TH PARLIAMENT

# Report of the Legislative Council Delegation to Hyogo Prefecture and Tokyo, Japan October 2016

Presented by Hon Barry House MLC  
President of the Legislative Council



## **Legislative Council Delegation to Hyogo Prefecture and Tokyo, Japan**

**Hon Barry House MLC, President of the Legislative Council, Member for South West Region**

**Hon Helen Morton MLC, Member for East Metropolitan Region**

**Hon Dave Grills MLC, Member for Mining & Pastoral Region**

**Ms Cassandra Stephenson, Executive Assistant**



**22 to 31 October 2016**



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## Background

In accordance with the Legislative Council's *Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Conferences Policy*, a significant part of the Parliament of Western Australia's role is to develop and maintain relationships with other parliaments, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

The President's Parliamentary Delegation is an extension of his ambassadorial role. At regular intervals, a reciprocal visit is scheduled to an international legislature or region, with the aim to:

- promote the State of Western Australia;
- renew contacts with and explore further avenues for dialogue and cooperation;
- gain an improved understanding of recent political, parliamentary and governance developments;
- provide opportunities for Parliamentarians to compare approaches to public policy issues of mutual interest and concern;
- meet with Presiding Officers, Members and Staff of each Parliament to discuss practical matters pertaining to the operation of parliamentary business, services and buildings;
- meet with a number of parliamentary committees, providing an opportunity to discuss the operation of the committee systems as well as particular policy areas of interest;
- review recent economic developments and assess opportunities for further growth and foreign investment;
- promote cultural exchange between our Parliament and neighbouring Regions;
- establish friendly and co-operative relationships with nations sharing the Indian Ocean Rim with Western Australia; and
- provide professional development for Members of the Legislative Council

## Objectives

In addition to those general areas outlined in the *Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Conferences Policy*, the objectives of the delegation were to:

- (1) renew and strengthen the relationship between the West Australian Parliament and the Kansai Region of Japan.
- (2) strengthen the Hyogo Prefecture – Western Australia Sister State relationship and to further enhance relations between the two regions in politics, society and culture.
- (3) obtain a greater understanding of Western Australia's trade links and opportunities in Japan.
- (4) explore the degree and potential for Western Australia trade organisations and business/tourism associations to establish or expand markets in Japan.

## Introduction by Hon Barry House MLC

As President of the Legislative Council, I was pleased to lead a delegation to the Hyogo Prefecture and Tokyo from Saturday 22 to Monday 31 October 2016. The following members and staff formed the delegation:

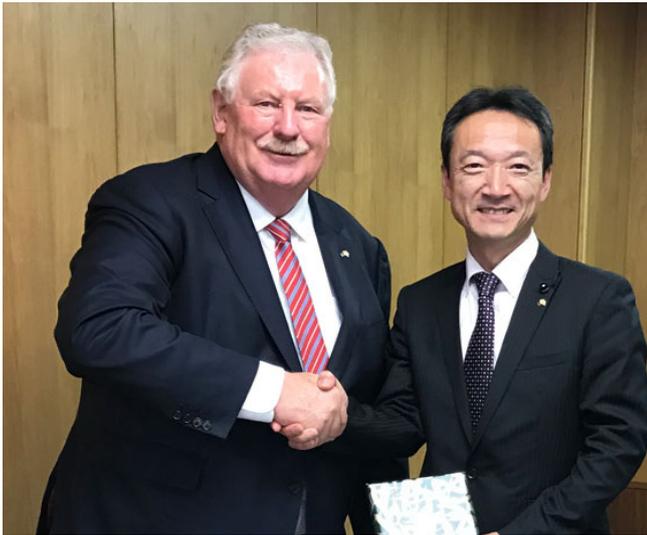
- Hon Barry House MLC, President of the Legislative Council, Member for South West Region
- Hon Helen Morton MLC, Member for East Metropolitan Region
- Hon Dave Grills MLC, Member for Mining & Pastoral Region
- Ms Cassandra Stephenson, Executive Assistant to the Clerk

## Hyogo Prefecture and Western Australia Sister State Relationship

It was rewarding to meet the long term Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Mr Toshizo Ido and the Speaker of the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly, Mr Takao Fujita together with other Prefectural Assembly Members and officials.

In 2011 I was honoured to co-sign the 30th Anniversary of the Western Australian/Hyogo Prefecture Sister-State Relationship in Perth with the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Colin Barnett, Governor Ido and the Speaker of the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly, Hon Shinobu Kamo.

Governor Ido will be visiting Western Australia again in April, 2017 when I anticipate the 35th Anniversary of this agreement, the first Sister State Relationship entered into by Western Australia, will be acknowledged and celebrated for its longevity and success.



*Hon Barry House MLC, President of the Legislative Council Mr Takao Fujita, Speaker, Hogo Prefectural Assembly*



*Mr Toshizo Ido, Governor, Hyogo Prefectural Government and Hon Barry House MLC, President of the Legislative Council*



*The Delegation met with Mr Toshizo Ido, Governor, Hyogo Prefectural Government at Hyogo House*

## Sister City Relationships

### Bunbury – Setagaya



*Hon Helen Morton MLC, Hon Barry House MLC, Mr Yoshimori Kamishima, Chairperson of Setagaya City Assembly, Hon Dave Grills MLC*

Bunbury and Busselton are important Regional Cities in my South West Electorate. They have long standing Sister City Exchange programs with Setagaya and Sugito.

I was pleased our Parliamentary delegation were able to touch base with these authorities and areas to deliver our best wishes and get a better understanding of their relationship. The Bunbury Setagaya relationship has existed for 25 years.

In Setagaya we visited the Oyamadai Junior High School and Setagaya City Hall, where we meet the Deputy Mayor, Superintendent of Education and the Chairperson of Setagaya City Assembly.

We also visited the Ghibli Museum, a well renowned venue recording the history and evolution of animation for film and television. I carried a greeting from CinefestOZ (Australia's largest regional film festival based in Busselton

and Bunbury) and an invitation for them to participate in this Festival in the future. Regrettably, I was unable to meet the director to pass on this information personally, but it will be delivered and it is hoped a further link can be established.



*Standing: Mr Craig Peacock, Hon Helen Morton MLC, Mr Dave Grills MLC*

*Seated: Mr Kenji Miyazaki, Deputy Mayor, City of Setagaya, Ms Keiko Hori, Superintendent of Education, Setagaya City Board of Education*



Hon Barry House MLC, President of the Legislative Council, dressed as a Samurai warrior, participates in the festival.

## Busselton – Sugito

The purpose of our days activities in conjunction with a City of Busselton delegation was to focus on celebrations for the 20th Anniversary of the Busselton/Sugito Sister-City Exchange which coincided with the celebrations of the 400th Anniversary of Sugito's close links to the Samurai era.

The celebrations took the form of an Official Ceremony and a street parade where we were dressed as Samurai Warriors!!! We were probably the strangest looking Samurai's the Japanese people had ever seen but it was good fun with large numbers of Sugito residents lining the street to enjoy the spectacle and the historical occasion.

The Busselton and Sugito City Councils have developed a close association over 20 years. Activities have been based on school student exchanges and cultural events. They are strongly supported by the Local Government authorities in Sugito and Busselton and have generated a lot of goodwill over the years.

HON BARRY HOUSE MLC  
President of the Legislative Council



Hon Dave Grills MLC, dressed as a holy man, participates in the festival.



A replica of the original Nikko Kaido noticeboard was unveiled at the festival.

The Sugito-juku was one of the post stations established by the Tokugawa Shogunate along the Nikko Kaido in 1616 (early Edo period). It was the fifth one after leaving Nihonbashi, Edo (starting point, present-day Tokyo), out of 21 post stations located between Edo and Nikko (Tochigi Prefecture).

## Program highlights

### Kobe Cattle Feedlot Co Ltd

On Monday, 24 October, the delegation enjoyed a visit to the Kobe cattle feedlot, Nishi-ku Kobe-city, Hyogo.

Japan is the world's biggest meat importer, taking 22 per cent of Australia's beef exports, and is Australia's single biggest market for grain-fed beef. Japan is a critically important market for the Western Australian beef industry, taking a range of products from manufacturing to chilled grain fed beef. In 2015, Australian beef exports to Japan totaled 285,224 tonnes.

Currently the Edwards Livestock Live Export (Queensland) services the F1 Angus/Wagyu-cross feeder steer trade to Japan and export in excess of 5000 F1 and full-blood steers annually.

Edwards Livestock was established some 20 years ago and started off supplying 360 Angus steers per year. The business gradually grew, through the building of relationships and the quality of product delivered. Edwards Livestock believe this is due to being a family business, committed to competing in an international market, while maintaining a 'hands on approach'.

Japan is WA's largest market and in order to secure the future of the state's \$5 billion grains industry, the WA State Government has increased its share in the WA-based plant breeding company InterGrain. WA exports on average 48% of Australia's oaten hay.



WA oaten hay is a preferred source of fodder for dairy cows, due to its high digestibility and palatability. High in water soluble carbohydrates at around 25 percent, it provides dairy cows with an instant source of energy that can be effectively utilised by the rumen microflora for high milk production and sustained live weight gain.

With the aim of increasing our market share, Western Australian beef growers need to assertively target Japanese consumers and promote the product in what has been a historically seafood-eating nation. Japanese consumers should be encouraged to put West Aussie beef on the barbecue, invite their friends and family over and enjoy a premium quality meal.



The State Government has an important role to play in facilitating greater trade and business links between Western Australian producers and Japanese consumers. The Japanese market offers extensive opportunities for beef producers in regions such as the Kimberley and Pilbara.

The State Government through consultation with industry and communities has set a target to increase the Kimberley's agriculture and food export earnings to \$590 million per annum by 2036

(Kimberley Regional Investment Blueprint, Kimberley Development Commission, 2015).

Japanese consumers and investment could play a valuable role in further developing the Kimberley agricultural and food sector, thus creating jobs and prosperity for communities in the region.

## Himeji LNG Terminal

The delegation was welcomed to the Himeji LNG Terminal, Shirahama-cho, Kobe-city, Hyogo by Mr Takatoshi Kano, Deputy Terminal Manager Himeji LNG Terminal Osaka Gas Co Ltd and, Mr Tatsuhito Yoshimoto, Deputy Director, Himeji No.2 Power Station, KEPCO.



The delegation was impressed with the overall presentation of the facility which is jointly owned by Osaka Gas. As noted by Hon Dave Grills MLC, *having worked in the mining industry, I was very impressed by this facility given its length of service and level of operation.*

Natural gas production is very limited in Japan when compared to the consumption rate. Japan has little in the way of indigenous energy resources and much of what it does have is relatively expensive to access (Japan's Energy Security Challenges, Linda McCann, Department of Defence, 2012).

Osaka Gas imports 7.9 million tons of LNG (including LNG from the NWS) annually and distributes up to 7 million natural gas customers.

Japan has some of the most reliable, modern gas plants in the world. For instance, gas accounts for just 27 percent of Japan's capacity but actually generates 40 percent of the country's electricity ("Why Japan's Liquefied Natural Gas Demand Will Increase," Forbes, September 25, 2016).

Osaka Gas Australia, a wholly owned subsidiary of Osaka Gas, was established in 2000 to expand its business in Australia and invest in a number of upstream oil and gas projects with a view to securing a long term stable LNG supply.

From the briefing provided to the delegation, it was made clear that the development of the Western Australian LNG industry is underpinned by long term contracts with Japanese corporations. The Japanese are heavily invested in the development of Western Australia industry. The Western Australian industry forms an important plank in Japan's energy security.

Australia is an attractive energy supply partner to Japan, with little risk of disruption to the provision of agreed energy resources. Relative geographic proximity keeps transport costs low and minimises potential risks to the safe transport of energy resources to Japan (Japan's Energy Security Challenges, Linda McCann, Department of Defence, 2012).

Japan has stepped up efforts to secure access to Australian LNG in the wake of the 2011 “triple disaster”. The country has signalled a desire to shift away from oil and nuclear energy sources and increase its use of LNG.

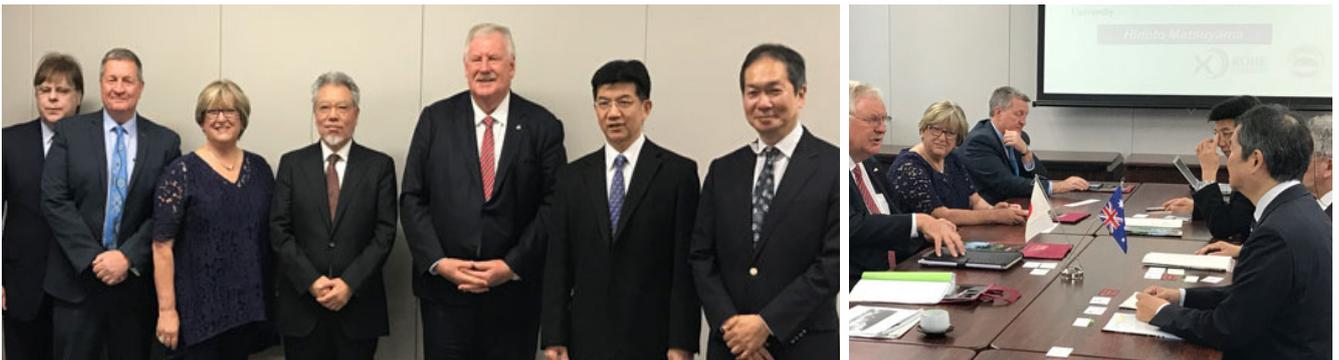
In 2013 Western Australia’s goods exports to Japan totalled approximately \$23 billion. Japanese industries have a very significant interest in the development of extraction and shipping of these raw materials, as well as procurement of them for Japan’s industries.

Major corporations such as Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Kobe Steel, Kansai Electric Power Company, Osaka Gas, Tokyo Electric Power Company, Nippon Steel and many others have extensive interests in Western Australia.

## Kobe University

Kobe University was established in 1902 and is one of the oldest leading universities in Japan. It has 16,356 students of which 1,196 are international students, 2,503 staff with 2,225 outbound researchers/faculty members. The University has 302 partner institutions in 54 countries including with the University of Western Australia and Murdoch University.

The visit was hosted by Professor Kiyomitsu Yui, Professor of Sociology, Graduate School of Humanities, Executive Adviser to the President in Charge of International Collaboration, Dr Hideto Matsuyama, Professor Director of the Centre for Membrane and Film Technology and, Professor Akio Tomiyama, Dean, Graduate School of Engineering, Doctor of Engineering.



The visit to Kobe University was specifically to the Centre for Membrane and Film Technology (MaFTech) and focussed on the science of membrane technology in water purification. MaFTech at Kobe University has an MOU with Murdoch University’s National Centre of Excellence in Desalination to collaborate in membrane technology.

According to Professor Yui, by 2025, two thirds of people in the world will suffer from a shortage of water. MaFTech sees the solutions in waste water treatment, desalination of seawater and ultrapure water production.

The Membrane Centre is working across six important areas of research and development:

- Water treatment
- Gas separation and gas barrier membranes
- Organic thin film
- Film and membrane coating
- Membrane bio-processing
- Membrane material synthesis

There are 73 private companies involved with the Centre and the international research network

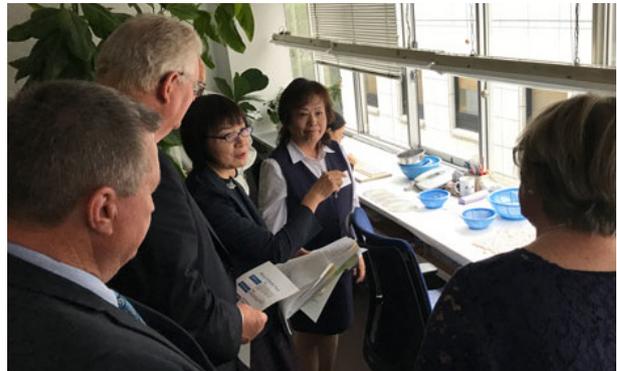
spans 15 universities outside Japan, including Murdoch University in Western Australia.

There are three Membrane Societies in the world: European Membrane Society, Aseanian Membrane Society, to which Japan and Australia belong, and the North American Membrane Society.

## Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd

The visit to the Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd was hosted by Mr Yoshiaki Ogawa, President, Mr Yukio Ogawa, Managing Director and, Mr Shinya Tasaki, Consultant.

Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd have visited Akoya Pearl Farm site and hatchery in Albany to develop a business collaboration. Mr Ogawa explained that Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd are looking for another source of high quality pearls. The temperature in Albany is considered ideal and other necessary conditions such as the relationship between rivers and mountains were found in Albany.



*The delegation was also able to observe the manufacturing process and this was overseen by Ms Taeko Kawabata.*

Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd believes they have the technology to assist Akoya to seed pearls at six months and facilitate the development of high quality pearls over one to two years.

A part of the visit demonstrated how pearls are graded by size, shape, nacre thickness, blemish, lustre and colour. The subtle colours of Akoya cultured pearls are rose, pink, white, cream, gold and blue.

## Sanda Shankan Senior High School

The Sanda Shankan Senior High School visit was hosted by Mr Keisuke Takahashi, Principal, Masai Hideaki, Vice Principal and, Chiaki Mukuda, Chief of School Office

The school was founded in 2001 and has 794 students and 60 teachers. The school motto covers:

- Self-autonomy – to enhance student autonomy and to form a well-balanced personality as a member of society.
- Creativity – to promote student ability to express their originality and to encourage them to create a better future through voluntary learning activities.
- Respect and love – to encourage students to respect nature, to have esteem for their lives and others and to love and accept others.

A highlight of the visit was a presentation by students who participated in a study tour to Western



*The delegation also received a demonstration of soccer playing robots by one of the students studying robotics*



*Students who have participated in the cross-cultural exchange program to Western Australia provide a presentation on their experiences.*

Australia as part of their cross-cultural exchange program.

Sanda Shankan Senior High School started a Western Australia study program in 2005.

Over the various exchanges, the students have valued their science, English and Australian Culture experiences at UWA, Symbiotica at UWA, a visit to Parliament House, studies at John Forrest Secondary College, Butler College, homestay and a host of activities in the community.

The school has a special interest area of study in Astronomy. One of the student's presentations covered research they are doing to observe sunspots on other asteroids.

## **Mitsubishi Corporation**

On Thursday, 27 October the delegation met with a number of executive officers from the Mitsubishi Corporation, Tokyo.

It goes without saying Mitsubishi is a well know brand name in Western Australia with motor vehicles being the most obvious. However, Mitsubishi are also engaged in a broad range of business through its trading activities and investments which include: energy, metals, machinery, chemicals, food, general merchandise, automotive tooling, equipment & minerals and business development.

Mitsubishi Australia Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Japanese trading and investment company, Mitsubishi Corporation, with an office in Perth. Mitsubishi Australia believe this multi-national presence allows them to work more effectively with customers and partners to identify their needs and conceive new business models and solutions.

Established in 1985 as a 50-50 joint venture, Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsui (MIMI) holds a one-sixth equity interest in the North West Shelf Venture (NWS Venture), producing natural gas, LNG, condensate, crude oil and LPG from reserves located near the Pilbara coast. The North West Shelf Project is Australia's largest resource project and one of the world's largest producers of LNG.

By 2018, Western Australia is expected to have five operating LNG export projects with a total capacity of close to 50 million tonnes per annum. As foundation investment partners and customers, Japanese companies played a crucial role in the establishment of WA's LNG industry. Japan's ongoing involvement is important to the sector's development.

The shipping distances from Western Australia to Japan compares favorably to the shipping distances from Australia's main competitor, Qatar. In 2015, Australia accounted for 22 percent (18.6 million tonnes) of Japan's LNG imports (Western Australian Department of State Development). In terms of its economic contribution to Western Australia, LNG accounted for 12 percent of the state's total commodity sales (\$87.9 billion) in 2015-16.

This meeting and another later that day with Mitsui & Co significantly enhanced my understanding of corporate Japan (as expressed in my general comments). As mentioned, the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement will allow valuable preferential access for WA exports to the Japanese market and I believe WA business should optimise that advantage at every opportunity.

## **Mitsui & Co Ltd, Thursday**

The visit to Mitsui & Co Ltd was to receive a briefing on Western Australian projects and potential future investments in Western Australia.

The visit was hosted by Keizo Sakurai, Deputy General Manager, Overseas Department, Hiroyuki Tsurugi, Managing Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Energy Business Unit 1, Shinichiro Omachi, Managing Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Mineral & Metal Resources Business Unit, Miki Yoshikawa, Managing Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Food Business Unit and, Masayuki Kinoshita, Counselor.

Mitsui is a leading exporter of Australia's key natural resources and agricultural commodities. They are the fourth largest exporter of Australian iron ore, seventh largest exporter of Australian oil, ninth



in gas, second largest exporter of salt from Shark Bay in Western Australia, largest exporter of woodchips and fifth largest exporter of wheat from Australia.

Mitsui opened an office in Perth in 1965 and went on to join the Mt Newman Joint Venture (1967), Robe River Iron Ore Joint Venture (1970), Shark Bay Salt Venture (1973), North West Shelf Joint Venture (1985), Wandoo Petroleum Joint Venture (1995), Bunbury Tree Farm (1995), Enfield Oil Field (2004), Kwinana Power Station (2004), Browse LNG (2012), Plum Grove (2013) and Jumblebar Iron Ore Mine (2013).

The Australian Joint ventures in Western Australia (above) and across Australia in which Mitsui participate employ over 20,000 people. On an equity basis, Mitsui employs about 4,650.

Mitsui Group companies have invested about A\$15b in Australia in the last 10 years. Recent notable investments in Western Australia include the Jumblebar Iron Ore mine acquisition (A\$700m), Plum Grove Grain project (A\$10.5m), Browse LNG project (A\$1b) and Robe River Port expansion (A\$1.5b).

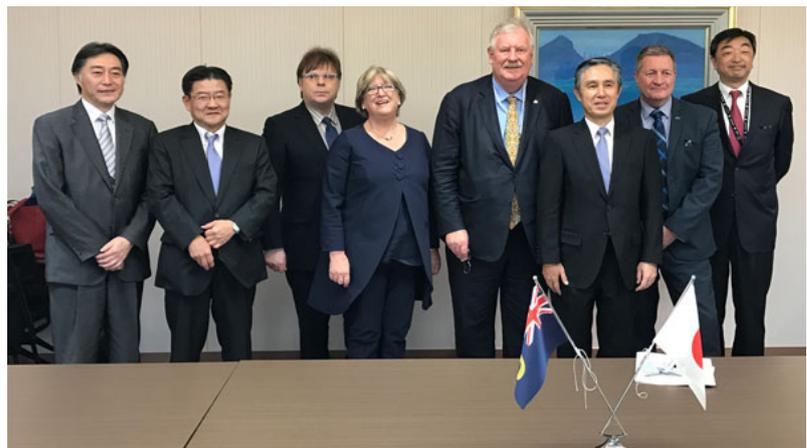
Mitsui is also regularly one of the largest corporate taxpayers in the country. In the last 10 years they have paid about A\$9b in federal corporate tax, state royalties and resource rent tax.

Mitsui have a number of community programs including the Mitsui Education Foundation which sponsors study tours to Japan of Australian university students. Since 2015, Mitsui has supported the internship programs for the New Colombo Plan (NCP). In June 2016, Mitsui hosted 12 students for two weeks as part of the NCP and two students for six weeks under the NCP scholarship program.

During the visit, Mitsui representatives indicated they were experiencing a trough situation with demand in China slowing, global financial crisis and depressed markets generally. As a result, they discussed efforts to enhance cost competitiveness in their resource projects while developing innovative technology based solutions for the sector. The representatives expressed concern over the potential increase in royalties being touted as National Party policy for the next election.

Mitsui are also seeking new opportunities in export infrastructure, logistics and renewable energy.

Mitsui have a long and proud history of partnering with Australia which was clear throughout the visit.



## Oyamadai Junior High School

Friday 28 October saw the delegation visit the Oyamadai Junior High School, Setagaya. The delegation dropped in on a number of classes and were shown around the school by Principal, Kiyoto Noguchi.

The school was established in 1950 and is currently working through a series of refurbishment

programs. Students walk, ride bicycles, or take public transportation to school and it is not uncommon for them to spend two or more hours each day on public transportation.

The school covers grades seven, eight and nine, ages are roughly thirteen to fifteen with increased focus on academic studies. As in every Japanese high school, Oyamadai has a set of lockers for students to exchange their street shoes for a set of slippers, which are color-coded for gender.

The minimum number of school days in a year is 210 in Japan, compared to 178 (estimate) in Western Australia, however, students will typically attend school for 240 to 250 days a year because of Saturday schooling where offered at other schools.



Observing a social studies class at Oyamadai Junior High School.

A significant part of the school calendar is taken up by non-academic events such as sports days and school trips.

Teachers at Oyamadai often majored in the subjects they teach. Each class is assigned a homeroom teacher who doubles as counselor. Students have different teachers for different subjects. The subject teachers usually move to a new room for each 50-minute period.

Course contents at Oyamadai are specified in the Course of Study for Lower-Secondary Schools. Some subjects, such as Japanese language and mathematics, are coordinated with the elementary curriculum.



The delegation met with Mr Kiyoto Noguchi, Principal, Oyamadai Junior High School

The curriculum covers Japanese language, English, social studies, mathematics, science, music, fine arts, industrial arts, homemaking, health, and physical education. Moral education and special activities continue to receive attention.

Many Oyamadai students participate in after-school clubs. Sports clubs, such as baseball are especially popular among boys, while wind bands and music are the most popular with girls. Soccer clubs are gaining popularity alongside judo, tennis, basketball, gymnastics, and volleyball. In every sport, many games are held between schools and at the regional level, so students have opportunities to compete.

Oyamada Junior High School has good form in its sporting expertise displayed in a number of full trophy cabinets in the hallways. Principal, Kiyoto Noguchi is also an avid runner and has completed in marathons internationally.



Visiting a music class at Oyamadai Junior High School.

Despite the school showing its age, the enthusiasm, cheer and goodwill of the children and staff was evident and welcoming. The delegation enjoyed the visit to the school, noting that it was a pleasure to see that good teaching and learning principals bring good results wherever you learn.



## Appendix 1 – Report by Hon Barry House MLC

It was a pleasure and privilege to lead a Legislative Council Parliamentary delegation to Japan from 22 to 23 October, 2016.

I thank Hon Helen Morton MLC, Hon Dave Grills MLC and Ms Cassandra Stephenson (staff member) for their company and contribution to the success of the delegation.

Japan is strongly based on respect and discipline.

This delivers a very hard working, polite, formal and efficient Nation. Australia, with an egalitarian and “laid back” attitude to life, is often starkly contrasted with this approach, but we have much to learn and benefit from our close and friendly links with Japan. On the surface for instance, there is very little evidence of rubbish or graffiti, very clean and ordered public open spaces, businesses, safe drinking water from the tap and a clean atmosphere. Even traffic negotiates the freeways and streets in a quiet and orderly manner.

The extensive movement of people to urban and commercial centres is largely dealt with by a very efficient public transport system.

Japan has been a stable, reliable and trustworthy trading partner and friend on the International stage for many years. Our delegation visited many Institutions and businesses which have strong links to Western Australia.

Since the 1960’s, and sometimes earlier, Japanese corporations and governments have developed close and lasting partnership and links with Western Australia.

From my perspective, this visit in the capacity as President of the Legislative Council was very rewarding. My previous visit to Japan was in 1984 as a Member of a Western Australian Rotary Group Study Exchange team to the Hyogo Prefecture. This experience had a profound effect on my future pathway into community representation and public life. Thirty Two years later, I was delighted to renew connections with the Kobe and Himeji South Rotary Clubs with an exchange of Rotary banners from the Busselton - Geographe, Margaret River and Matilda Bay Rotary Clubs which I have close links to.

This delegation also strongly reinforced my positive impressions of Japanese people and the value of our close relationships through Government, Commercial, Cultural, Education and other links.



*Exchanging Rotary banners with the Himeji Rotary Club*

### General comments

We should not underestimate the value of Sister State and Sister City Relationships such as these. Western Australia, and our Japanese partners, benefit in many ways from these friendships and close links.

In the words of Craig Peacock, Western Australia and North Asia, Commissioner to Japan, Department of the Premier and Cabinet:

*Dear Mr President*

*Thank you for leading a delegation to Japan and for furthering the WA-Japan relationship. Delegations such as yours greatly assist us in furthering the WA cause in Japan. Our efforts in the economic, commercial and political sectors are all enhanced by the reassuring visit of a delegation from parliament. Such delegations show that WA takes the relationship seriously at the political, economic and social levels, and is willing to devote time to deepening that relationship.*

*Having knowledge and experience of many delegations over the past 14 years, unlike our federal and other state colleagues I am proud to say that WA puts a lot of effort into making sure these visits cover many aspects of our wide ranging relationship. At all points they promote better understanding and industry capability.*

*Indeed many instances of trade and investment may be traced back to parliamentary delegations. Participating members have returned to their electorates and promoted potential opportunities to great effect. We have seen in the past few years a number of highly successful agribusiness contracts concluded as a result of members promoting opportunities they were exposed to in Japan to their constituents. Had we not had such parliamentary visits, we would not have WA olive oil in Japan, we would also not have a range of avocado products, nor would we have the attention of the Ministry of Agriculture in now actively negotiating for area freedom for the South West, which will allow us to export a range of fresh produce including the newly developed "black apple".*

*I thus welcome such delegations and applaud their commitment to our longest standing and most successful trade relationship. Japan, although slipping to number two in terms of total trade volume while still expanding its trade with WA, is our most stable and honorable trading partner and will continue to be so for many years with the support of the parliament and the bureaucracy.*

*In terms of your just completed visit, we have received many messages of thanks and appreciation for taking the time to visit and for asking pertinent questions. The visit covered agriculture, resources, joint research, education and cultural exchange – a lot of ground over nine very active days. The meetings and visits reaffirmed the constant activities of this office and afford us a higher level of confidence.*

*I look forward to future parliamentary visits and I can assure you that this Agency will always strive to maximize the effectiveness of such visits.*

I thank Craig Peacock for his outstanding assistance to our delegation. Craig has 14 years experience as the Western Australian Commissioner in Japan and is a great asset to Western Australia. He is very well organized, connected and effective. He has a loyal and dedicated staff who assist him operate from Tokyo. His work is acknowledged and appreciated.

## **The Future**

This will be the last Legislative Council Parliamentary Delegation I will lead to other jurisdictions so I will finish with a few observations which I hope will be taken into account in the years ahead.

- (1) Parliamentary delegations are valuable, in terms of establishing, maintaining and reinforcing Parliamentary, Government and Community links.
- (2) Conducting 4, one per year, in a Parliamentary term is about the right number.
- (3) Parliamentary delegations are extremely valuable, professional development opportunities for Members.
- (4) As far as possible delegations should always contain a bipartisan balance of political representation across the Chamber, but this will sometimes be affected by availability.

- (5) Members in these delegations must always travel as “Parliamentarians” not “Politicians” as we are representing the Legislative Council and Western Australia.
- (6) Delegations must be professionally organised and conducted. Western Australia’s overseas Trade Offices assistance with this is invaluable and I thank them for their on ground help and guidance. It is useful to seek assistance from Consulates, DFAT, Department of State Development and other organisations and agencies, but the final itinerary should be coordinated from one source.
- (7) Background briefings, maps and notes, are very important for Members before embarking.
- (8) I suggest future delegations should also travel with multiple copies of folded A4 information sheets containing
  - (a) details of the destination
  - (b) statement of purpose
  - (c) brief biographies, contact details, photo’s of Members and staff.
- (9) This will be very useful for distribution to formal meetings and provide lasting reference for follow up.
- (10) The practice of tabling a report on the delegation in the Legislative Council, which has been introduced in the last couple of years, is accountable and should continue.

It has been a great privilege to have been involved with this delegation to Japan, and others in previous years. I’m confident of their positive and useful role and wish future President’s, Members and staff all the best.

HON BARRY HOUSE MLC  
Member for the South West Region  
President of the Legislative Council



## Appendix 2 – Report by Hon Helen Morton MLC

The knowledge gained during my first visit to Japan has been invaluable in providing me a better understanding of the value of the sister state relationship between Western Australia and Hyogo Prefecture and sister city relationships.

Across my electorate most cities have a sister city relationship with a city in Japan. I am aware of the exchanges between school children and local government initiatives. It is my perception that in Western Australia these sister city relationships with Japanese cities are both more prolific and more profound than with the cities of any other country.

I also appreciated the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the significant value placed by Japanese corporations on their trade arrangements with Western Australia.

The Japanese people are very proud of their culture, both ancient and modern, and are extremely protective to see it not “watered down” by multiculturalism.

The delegation received a very warm welcome throughout the visit and was left with the clear message that the Japanese people greatly value the relationships and collaborations with Western Australia at all levels of Government, industry and with general community organisations. In particular, this was obvious in the Hyogo Prefecture and within cities we visited that have a sister city relationship with a Western Australian city.

I welcome any opportunity to host the many people who expressed their intention to visit Western Australia in the near future.

The society is still quite patriarchal, with mothers and extended family expected to care for children. This came through in Government, corporations and in general.

The culture of self-discipline and respect for self and others was impressive. It was obvious that this emanated from the upbringing children have at home and was evident in the school, on the streets and in the boardrooms. It was noticeable by the lack of graffiti in the street.



*Hon Helen Morton MLC, signing the visitors book at Hyogo House*

The intensity of high rise living warrants the massive investment in public transport, including underground networks, overhead trains and buses and extensive use of bicycles. It was of interest that people cannot buy a car unless they can show they have a car park.

The use of advanced technology was evident everywhere from precision of tap ware, toilets, etc to the use of technology by taxi drivers, toll gates, water management and the resumption of land and their expertise in financial ventures and all aspects of industry.

I always felt safe, the cities were spotlessly clean and services were superb. At no time did I feel “crushed” on the streets because there were walkways at two levels – one at ground level and another at third floor level.

The corporate citizenship that corporations extend to their employees ensures that there is a high level of employment, a high standard of living and a strong and enduring relationship between employer and employee.

Unfortunately, there is a high rate of suicide, but minimal homelessness.

I was greatly impressed with the physical health and wellbeing of the people which I attribute to a higher level of exercise and healthier eating habits. They also place a strong value on spiritual wellbeing.

The country has an amazing ability to feed their populations, ensuring nothing that can be eaten is wasted.

My overall impression is that the Japanese have successfully adapted their lifestyle to enable a very large population to live in a fraction of the space we take for granted.

The itinerary provided the delegation with opportunities to experience many aspects of everyday Japanese culture and to participate in aspects of Japanese society.

I would like to express my appreciation of your leadership on the delegation and thank Cassandra Stephenson for her diligence, care and support throughout the entire visit. I would also like to express my thanks and admiration to Mr Craig Peacock, Commissioner, and his staff at the Department of the Premier and Cabinet- North Asia Agency, for ensuring we had access to the people and places we most wanted to meet and visit and for the smooth operation of the delegation's schedule.

HON HELEN MORTON MLC  
Member for East Metropolitan Region

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## Appendix 3 – Report by Hon Dave Grills MLC

It was an honour to have been a member of the Western Australian Legislative Council Delegation to Japan.

While waiting to proceed through customs following the delegation's arrival, I watched a welcoming video thanking me for visiting Japan. Amongst the highlights, it stated that Japan was a convenient place to live.

I initially wondered what precisely that meant but it didn't take long for me to understand that statement was true. Japan is widely regarded as the most technologically advanced nation in Asia. According to the OECD Better Life Index, Japan ranks at the top in terms of personal security.

It also ranks above the OECD average in income and wealth, education and skills, jobs and earnings, and social connections. It is also a remarkably beautiful country with efficient, clean cities and remarkably intact wilderness areas. The population is also highly homogeneous, with a distinctive East Asian culture infused with some Western elements.

Japan is a democratic, constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government headed by a Prime Minister. Japan maintains an Imperial Family, headed by the Emperor, currently Emperor Akihito. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade notes that Japan has described

Australia as its second most important security partner, after the United States. The Australia-Japan-United States Trilateral Strategic Dialogue is a key security policy mechanism for the three countries.

Japan's governmental structure is comprised of three tiers: national, prefectural and local. Each tier is governed by elected assemblies. However, Japan is not a federation and its 43 prefectures lack the equivalent status of Australia's states. The two lower tiers of government are largely dependent fiscally on the national government.

Japan has achieved high living standards with a relatively large population of 126,236,478. Due to the high population density, functional space is limited and every available square metre is built upon or used for urban agriculture.

With such a population covering a relatively small land mass, everything is designed to be practical. Japanese culture places great emphasis on both unity and utility. All citizens seem to have something meaningful to do in their daily lives, tasks that contributes to the greater good of Japanese society. The environment reflects the Japanese lifestyle: well-ordered and efficient.

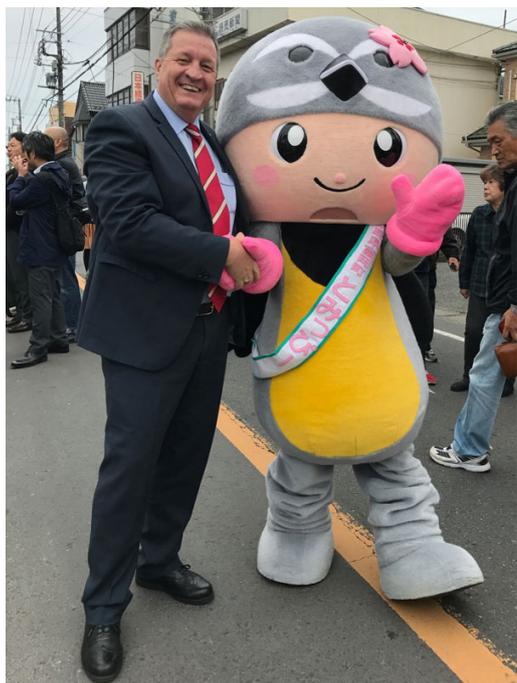
Motor vehicles were clean, mostly new and, despite their numbers, traffic was ordered and drivers were respectful. My observation was that Japanese people are kind, hospitable and mindful of not imposing on each other's space. Respectfulness is also highly prized.

While there has been much focus on China's growing prominence in Asian affairs, Japan remains a hugely important country in both the international system and for Australia. Japan's large population and high income levels gives the country an insatiable hunger for energy and other imported resources that cannot be sourced domestically.

Japan is WA's second largest trading partner with total trade valued at \$419 billion in 2015. The country is also the third largest source of foreign direct investment in Australia, valued at \$66.1 billion in 2014. WA is a stable, transparent destination for Japanese investment and our state is an important supplier of minerals and energy, as well as high-quality and safe food products. Business ties have been strengthened by the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA), entered into force in January 2015.

According to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: "JAEPA is the most liberalising bilateral trade agreement that Japan has ever concluded, providing Australian exporters, importers, investors and producers a significant advantage over their international competitors. This

groundbreaking agreement will significantly improve access to the world's third-largest economy for Australian business."



*Hon Dave Grills MLC, at the 400th Anniversary of the opening of Sugito-Juku, which coincided with the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of a sister-city relationship, Sugito*

Based on my meetings with the Mitsubishi, Mitsui and other leading Japanese companies, it was obvious that the Japanese are commercially canny and highly adept at negotiations. However, there is a personal element that cannot be overlooked with dealing with Japanese firms. Goodwill and harmonious enterprise is vital to fostering and maintaining mutually beneficial commercial, economic and political relationships.

In 2016, we commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister state relationship between Hyogo Prefecture and Western Australia. Since the sister state relationship was signed in 1981, there have been countless economic, cultural and sporting exchanges between Hyogo and Western Australia.

Further to that sister state relationship, the City of Rockingham and the City of Ako in Hyogo have also signed a sister city agreement. It is one of nine sister city relationships between Western Australian and Japanese cities.

I believe the Japanese community appreciates premium quality and commercial certainty. Western Australia is in the box seat and has the capacity to deliver a variety of products to Japanese consumers. Conversely, I believe Western Australia can further tap into the Japanese tourism market and become a preferred holiday location. However, we will need to enhance our product and improve tourism infrastructure and services if we are to become a convenient place for the Japanese to visit.

The Japanese have a strong interest in Australia. Based on my discussions, it is clear they view our country and state in very favorable terms.

**HON DAVE GRILLS MLC**  
Member for Mining & Pastoral Region Region

## Appendix 4 – Official Program

### DAY 1 — Saturday, 22 October 2016

- 06:25 Depart Perth (SQ224) Airbus A330-300  
*International Terminal 1, Perth Airport*
- 11:45 Arrive Singapore Changi
- 13:55 Depart Singapore Changi (SQ616) Airbus A330-300  
*Singapore Changi International Airport, Terminal 3*
- 21:30 Arrive Osaka Kansai, International Airport – Terminal 1  
Transfer to accommodation and check-in Hotel

### DAY 2 — Sunday, 23 October 2016

- Rest for full day*
- 17:00 Short tour in Kobe before dinner
- 18:30 Dinner at “Shin Masa” Kushikatsu restaurant
- 20:30 Arrive at Hotel

### DAY 3 — Monday, 24 October 2016

- 10:10 Depart the hotel for Kobe beef farm
- 10:50 Arrive Kobe Cattle Feedlot Co Ltd  
*This farm visit is coordinated by Marunaga Co Ltd, importer of Western Australia oaten hay since 2012.*
- Mr Yoza Ikeuchi, Director Kobe Cattle Feedlot Co Ltd
  - Mr Seiichi Morishita, Director Marunaga Co Ltd
- 11:50 Depart the farm for lunch in Himeji
- 13:00 Lunch at “Egret Himeji”, Restaurant “Millet”
- 14:15 Depart the restaurant for LNG Terminal
- 14:45 Arrive Himeji LNG Terminal jointly owned by Osaka Gas Co Ltd and Kansai Electric Power Co Inc. (KEPCO)  
*Western Australia LNG supplied to Hyogo*
- Mr Takatoshi Kano, Deputy Terminal Manager Himeji LNG Terminal Osaka Gas Co Ltd
  - Mr Tatsuhito Yoshimoto, Deputy Director, Himeji No.2 Power Station, KEPCO
- 16:20 Depart LNG Terminal for the hotel
- 17:20 Arrive the hotel for refreshment
- 18:30 Depart the hotel for dinner
- 19:00 Dinner at “Misono” Kobe beef steak restaurant

### DAY 4 — Tuesday, 25 October 2016

- 09:40 Depart the hotel for Kobe University
- 10:15 The Centre for Membrane and Film Technology (MaFTech) Kobe University  
*MOU with Murdoch University, National Centre of Excellence in Desalination Australia (NCEDA) on membrane technology research collaboration*
- Professor Kiyomitsu Yui, Acting President Kobe University

- Professor Akio Tomiyama, Dean Graduate School of Engineering Kobe University
  - Professor Hideto Matsuyama, Director MaFTech Kobe University
- 11:30 Depart Kobe University for lunch
- 12:00 Lunch hosted by Hyogo Prefectural Government Governor Ido and Hyogo Prefectural Assembly Speaker Fujita
- Mr Toshizo Ido, Governor, Hyogo Prefectural Government
  - Mr Takao Fujita, Speaker, Hyogo Prefectural Assembly
- "Nishimuraya Dining" Japanese restaurant
- 13:30 Depart the restaurant for Hyogo Prefectural Assembly
- 13:45 Call upon the Speaker of the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly
- Mr Takao Fujita, Speaker and other HPA members
- 14:20 Depart Hyogo Prefectural Assembly for Hyogo House
- 14:30 Call upon Governor Toshizo Ido at Hyogo House
- Mr Toshizo Ido, Governor
- 15:10 Depart Hyogo House for Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd
- 15:20 Meeting with Mr Yoshiaki Ogawa, President Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd
- Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd visited Akoya pearl farm site and hatchery in Albany for business collaboration*
- Mr Yoshiaki Ogawa, President
- 16:20 Depart Mizuki Pearl Co Ltd for the hotel
- 16:50 Arrive at the hotel
- 17:00 Meeting with Kobe Rotary Club members
- Mr Yoshihiro Uetani, President Kobe Rotary Club
  - Mr Masao Yokoyama, Senior Coordinator Kobe Rotary Club
- Venue – "Soco" 2F, Kobe Portopia Hotel
- 17:30 Short rest after meeting
- 18:15 Gather in the lobby area of the hotel to move for the reception venue on the 4th Floor, South Wing
- 18:30 Official reception hosted by Governor Ido and Speaker Fujita
- Venue - "Le Vante" 4F, South Wing Kobe Portopia Hotel. Hosted by:
- Mr Toshizo Ido, Governor, Hyogo Prefectural Government
  - Mr Takao Fujita, Speaker, Hyogo Prefectural Assembly
- 20:30 Close of the reception
- Arrive at hotel

### **DAY 5 - Wednesday, 26 October 2016**

- 08:40 Check out of accommodation
- 08:50 Depart the hotel for Sanda Shouinkan Senior High School
- 10:00 Sanda Shouinkan Senior High School
- Sanda Shouinkan started WA study program in 2008. About 40 students including science focus group have participated in WA senior high school sessions, university research institution and industry learning every year.*
- Mr Keisuke Takahashi, Principal
- 11:00 Depart Sanda Shouinkan Senior High School for Shin Kobe Station
- 11:50 Arrive at Shin Kobe Station

12:22 Depart Shin Kobe Station by Nozomi 20 for Tokyo  
Lunch box in Nozomi

15:13 Arrive Tokyo Station  
*Transfer by car to hotel and check-in*

16:00 Check-in accommodation

## DAY 6 — Thursday, 27 October 2016

10:15 Depart hotel for Mitsubishi Corporation

10:30 Arrive Mitsubishi Corporation  
*Briefing on Mitsubishi Corporation's WA projects and potential future investments*

- Mr Masaki Fujiwara: General Manager, Americas & Oceania E&P Business Department, E& P Business Unit
- Mr Tadashi Hara: Deputy General Manager, Americas & Oceania E& P Business Department, E&P Business Unit
- Mr Akihiko Takada: General Manager, Australia Natural Gas Business Department, Natural Gas Business Division.
- Mr Yuichi Sakaguchi: Deputy General Manager, NWS Project Team, Australia Natural Gas Business Department, Natural Gas Business Division.
- Mr Hiroyuki Kitahara: Deputy General Manager, LNG Project Development Office

11:30 Depart Mitsubishi Corporation

12:00 Arrive at Tokyo Tower  
*Observe Tokyo from the Observation Deck*

12:45 Walk to "Tofu no Ukai" restaurant

13:00 Lunch set (Japanese)

14:30 Depart restaurant for Mitsui & Co

15:00 Arrive Mitsui & Co  
*Briefing on WA projects and potential future investments*

- Mr Masayuki Kinoshita: Japan-Australia Economic Acting Committee, member and Counselor of Mitsui & Co.
- Mr Shinichiro Omachi: Managing Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Mineral & Metal Resources Business Unit
- Mr Hirotatsu Fujiwara: Managing Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Energy Business Unit 2
- Mr Miki Yoshikawa, Managing Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Food Business Unit
- Mr Kenzo Sakurai, Deputy General Manager, Overseas Dept. Corporate Planning & Strategy Div

16:00 Depart Mitsui for Hotel

16:30 Arrive Hotel

18:00 Depart hotel for Salt Australian Restaurant  
Dinner with:

- Mr Shinsuke Okuno, A member of the Kansai Diet Members-WA Parliamentarians League
- Ms Yuumi Yoshikawa, a member of the House of Councilors
- Mr Takashi Koyari, a member of the House of Councilors

20:30 Depart restaurant for Hotel

## DAY 7 — Friday, 28 October 2016

*Bunbury-Setagaya Sister City program for the day. Setagaya to provide all transportation and meals.*

- 09:00 Gather in hotel foyer  
Met by Mr Shuhei Otani, Chief of International Affairs Section, City of Setagaya
- 09:30 Depart hotel for Oyamadai Junior High School
- 10:30 Arrive at Oyamadai Junior High School
- 11:30 Depart Oyamadai Junior High School
- 12:00 Lunch at a restaurant
- 13:00 Depart Restaurant for Setagaya city hall
- 13:30 Meet the chairperson of Setagaya City Assembly
- 14:30 Meet the Deputy Mayor and Superintendent of Education
- 15:00 Depart Setagaya City Hall for Ghibli Museum
- 16:00 Arrive at Ghibli Museum
- 17:30 Depart Ghibli Museum
- 18:30 Dinner at a restaurant
- 19:30 Depart restaurant for hotel
- 20:30 Arrive at Hotel

## DAY 8 — Saturday, 29 October 2016

- 09:45 Gather in hotel foyer
- 10:00 Depart hotel for Kamakura  
*Walking tour of Kamakura including tempura lunch and visit to the Giant Buddha*
- 16:00 Arrive at hotel, free at leisure  
*Own dinner arrangements*

## DAY 9 — Sunday, 30 October 2016

*The sister cities exchange of Sugito and Busselton marks the 20th anniversary this year. A commemorative ceremony will be held in Sugito.*

- 07:15 Gather in hotel foyer
- 07:30 Depart Hotel for Sugito City
- 09:10 Arrive at Sugito City Office
- 09:30 Participate in the Festival including lunch
- 17:00 Leave Sugito City for Hotel
- 18:40 Arrive at Hotel

## DAY 10 — Monday, 31 October 2016

- Check out of accommodation
- 13:30 Return to Hotel and gather in foyer
- 14:00 Depart hotel for Airport
- 14:40 Arrive airport and check-in
- 16:40 Depart Tokyo (SQ633) Boeing 777-300er  
Tokyo Haneda International Terminal
- 23:20 Arrive Singapore Changi

**DAY 11 — Tuesday, 1 November 2016**

00:10 Depart Singapore Changi (SQ225) Airbus A330-300  
Singapore Changi International Airport, Terminal 3

05:25 Arrive Perth, International Airport – Terminal 1

