

62nd Annual Australia-Japan Business Conference:

Joint Statement

Members of the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC) and the Japan Australia Business Co-operation Committee (JABCC) gathered in Perth for their 62nd Annual Joint Business Conference from 5-7 October 2025. With over 700 delegates from more than 220 different organisations in attendance, and with very strong engagement at the Chair, CEO and C-suite levels, the conference was the largest and most influential of the 62 joint meetings held to date, highlighting the rapid growth of the bilateral business relationship and the pivotal importance to it of Western Australia. We thank the Western Australian Government for its generous support.

The Conference was addressed by the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia; the Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Northern Australia; and Mr Akiyoshi Kato, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry.

On the eve of the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between Australia and Japan (the "NARA" Treaty), the Conference affirmed that our friendship has never been stronger, and the need - and potential - for cooperation has never been so great.

The Conference welcomed the recent decision by the Australian Government to acquire Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' Mogami class frigate – the first major collaborative defence procurement project between Australia and Japan – as an important step in building the breadth, depth and strategic closeness of the relationship still further, with potential to create significant new bilateral business cooperation over time.

The Conference also highlighted the growing interconnection between our two economies as a result of the broadening and deepening of Japan's already highly substantial foreign direct investment into the Australian economy, ranging across fields as disparate as consumer goods, real estate, insurance, critical minerals, clean energy and technology, in addition to traditional investments in iron ore, LNG and coal; as well as the increasingly sophisticated and broad connections between our financial sectors.

The Conference theme, *Navigating New Realities - Turbulence, Transition and Technology* - highlighted the changes that have taken place in the global economy since the holding of the 61st conference in Nagoya and the vital role that Australia and Japan, working in partnership, can play in the region and globally to mitigate the negative consequences of unpredictability and create positive opportunities both bilaterally and more widely.

Discussions at the Conference highlighted that we are in an age when government and business must work ever more closely together to deliver security and prosperity for our peoples. We are committed to building this dialogue. In particular, the business communities of Japan and Australia, countries which share the values of international cooperation, expressed their concern about the rise of protectionism and confirmed our commitment to work together, with our governments, to counter this trend to the maximum extent possible, in keeping with the benefits that both our countries have reaped and continue to reap from open, free and rules-based trade.

At the same time, our discussions emphasised that as global uncertainties increase, strengthening strategic cooperation to build reliable supply chains will be crucial for Japan-Australia economic relations. Given the commercial risks involved, we urge both governments to continue to work with business to advance comprehensive cooperation across the entire supply chain in emerging sectors such as critical minerals, from development to products, leveraging the track record of successful cooperation built in upstream segments in the past.

Discussion on the transition to cleaner energy systems and decarbonisation reinforced the determination of the Australia-Japan business community to continue to support the two countries' shared commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The Conference called for Australia and Japan to lead the decarbonisation of the Asia-Pacific region both through their bilateral cooperation and through multilateral initiatives such as the AZEC framework.

The Conference also highlighted the importance of maintaining energy security during the transition to clean energy. In this regard, it is indispensable that decarbonisation initiatives be actively pursued at the same time as maintaining and utilizing existing energy resources. Delegates commended the Australian Government's Future Gas Strategy and urged the steady implementation of concrete policies based on it.

This meeting confirmed that maintaining a business and investment environment that ensures continuity and profitability of investment as the energy mix changes is crucial for the technological innovation required to achieve our dual goals of energy security and decarbonisation. It also confirmed the importance of policy support to encourage investment in building value chains for new technologies key to advancing decarbonization, such as hydrogen, ammonia, methane, CCS / CCUS, and biofuels, including, where necessary, through consideration of reshaping supply chains to locate value-adding activities nearer to the source of energy. Furthermore, it was proposed that in the transport sector, including automobiles, aviation, and shipping, immediate low-carbon measures should be promoted in parallel, including through the use of low-carbon fuels, primarily biofuels. AJBCC and JABCC reiterated their commitment, stated in Nagoya in 2024, to cooperate to promote further collaborative activities towards carbon neutrality, including through regular and ongoing dialogue between themselves and with government, to promote bilateral policy alignment.

The Conference highlighted that Japan and Australia have a strong complementary relationship in both technological innovation and economic security. Particularly in cutting-edge fields such as cyber technology, space, defence, and security, it was suggested that frameworks for startup support, supply chain and industrial cooperation, joint research, and information sharing could enhance both countries' strategic interests. The Japanese and Australian Governments are encouraged to explore cooperative frameworks, in consultation with the business community, to overcome institutional barriers hindering startup support and to build trust between themselves and their business communities for sharing critical technologies. The two Committees noted the AJBCC's Defence, Security and Space Industries Advisory Committee's initial scoping paper on this topic.

Discussion at the Conference also highlighted the strength of inbound Japanese investment into Australia's real estate and infrastructure sectors. It emphasised opportunities for Japanese expertise and capital to be harnessed in support of Australia's efforts to address its housing shortage. As Australia-Japan infrastructure cooperation continues to expand at scale, further deepening public-private partnerships (PPP), including through the establishment of joint financing frameworks supported by both governments, and risk-sharing mechanisms whereby the public sector assumes risks that the private sector alone cannot bear – would create greater opportunities for investment and contribute significantly to the sustainable development of both nations.

The Conference noted that the need to increase diversity and inclusion, in all its dimensions, across workplaces in business, government, sport and the arts continues to challenge both Australia and Japan. The AJBCC and JABCC are committed to continue to work together to open pathways for more diverse representation at all levels of influence, including through continued support for AJBCC-JABCC Future Leaders.

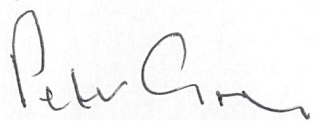
The Conference reiterated the willingness of the Business Communities of both countries to contribute positively to the efforts of governments to navigate the new realities with which we are faced. In keeping with our commitment to building this dialogue, the AJBCC and JABCC request that the key topics discussed at this Japan-Australia Business Conference be discussed at the forthcoming Australia-Japan Ministerial Economic Dialogue, and that the results be reported by both Governments to their respective Business Committees.

The Conference recognised the outstanding success of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, and congratulated the organisers for their efforts. noting with appreciation the strong contribution of the Australia Pavilion to deepening mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries. The conference noted that major international events to be held in Australia in the future, such as the 2027 and 2029 Rugby World Cups and the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, will provide excellent opportunities to build on the Expo's success and further promote business and personal exchanges between our two countries.

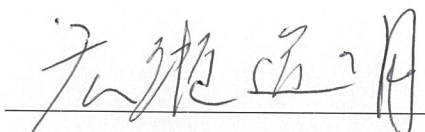
In particular, we expressed our determination to seize the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Australia and Japan, which falls in 2026, to further promote two-way people-to-people flows between our countries and strengthen mutual collaboration through exchanges in all areas. This will sustainably enhance the "special strategic partnership" between Australia and Japan.

The 63rd Australia-Japan Economic Conference is scheduled to be held in Chiba, Japan from Sunday, 4 October to Tuesday, 6 October, 2026.

Signed by:



Peter Grey, President, AJBCC



Michiaki Hirose, Chairman, JABCC

Perth, Western
Australia

7 October 2025