

**Address by Takashi Katae, Deputy Chief of Mission**

**Commemorative Service**

**for the 75th Anniversary of the Broome Air Raid February 1942**

Distinguished guests, the families of those present here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1942, ladies and gentleman, Good morning.

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I express my sincerest condolences for the countless lives lost within the maelstrom of war. Japan will never forget that it inflicted immeasurable damage and suffering on Broome and other parts of Australia

Acknowledging that the peace we cherish today is a testament to the sacrifices of generations, Japan resolutely determined to never again repeat the tragedy of war, and has walked along a path of a free, democratic and pacifist nation, governed by the rule of law since the end of the Second World War.

During Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Australia in January 2017, the leaders of our two countries once again confirmed our "special strategic partnership," a close co-operative relationship that spans many areas.

The development of such a relationship is the result of the endeavours of our predecessors from post-World War II until today.

In this connection, this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Japan-Australia Commerce Agreement.

This was a watershed agreement that formed the foundations of mutually supportive economic ties, which went on to contribute to the development of the Japan-Australia relationship as a whole.

We are still acutely aware that Prime Minister Menzies determined to sign this Agreement at a time when hostile feelings towards Japan were still strong, as the War had ended just ten years earlier.

On this occasion, Japan would like to express its gratitude for the generosity displayed by Australia after the war and the efforts made by so many Australians towards deepening and expanding our relationship for the future.

I also have great expectations for Japan's future relationship with Western Australia, as former Western Australia Premier, Hon Richard Court AC, was recently assigned as Australia's Ambassador to Japan.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.