

- Good evening, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.
- My name is HOSAKA Yasushi.
- I am Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.
- I am glad to be able to join this moment with all of you tonight to commemorate the Cowra Breakout 80th Anniversary.
- First, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the efforts of the Cowra Council including Mayor Fagan, the Cowra Breakout 80th Anniversary Committee and all others concerned for arranging this special service.
- On top of that I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Prime Minister Albanese for the wreath-laying ceremony this morning.
- Now, I am grateful to have the special opportunity to engage with you by delivering the message from Prime Minister of Japan KISHIDA Fumio to mark this anniversary.

////////Prime Minister's message////////

- On behalf of the people and Government of Japan, I would like to send my sincere condolences to the souls of Japanese and Australians who lost their lives in the Cowra Breakout.
- Today, Japan and Australia enjoy a closer relationship than ever before as special strategic partners.
- Our cooperation has advanced across a wide range of areas, including security, resources and energy.
- This intimate relationship has been built by the strenuous efforts of both countries. It is, in particular, underpinned by people-to-people ties.
- Since the end of World War II, the City of Cowra has been at the forefront leading various endeavors as a symbol of reconciliation and friendship between Japan and Australia.

- Eighty years since the Cowra Breakout, I would like to express my appreciation and heartfelt respect to all concerned.
- At a point in time when the international order is being fundamentally challenged, I stress the importance of “human dignity” as the core principle to lead to a harmonious world free from division and confrontation.
- Indeed, I believe that the citizens of Cowra have proven by their deeds that respect for human dignity has been the force that has brought our state-to-state relationship to where we are today.
- I pledge to continue to further elevate the Japan-Australia relationship.

////////End of Prime Minister’s message////////

●Thank you.