

<b>Member</b>	Bill Tilley	<b>Electorate</b>	Benambra
<b>Period</b>	1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$14,991.76
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$9,708.51
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
17-Mar-25	20-Mar-25	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,284.00	Melbourne	\$1,113.30
03-Mar-25	07-Mar-25	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,697.67	Melbourne	\$1,487.00
31-Mar-25	03-Apr-25	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,265.11	Melbourne	\$1,224.00
24-Apr-25	26-Apr-25	Check in attend ANZAC Day Service representing constituents of Benambra, and ANZAC Day duties	\$802.00	Melbourne	\$802.00
12-May-25	16-May-25	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,657.20	Melbourne	\$1,620.00
19-May-25	21-May-25	Parliamentary Sitings	\$762.59	Melbourne	\$748.00
24-Apr-25	26-Apr-25	Check in attend ANZAC Day Service representing constituents of Benambra, and ANZAC Day duties*	\$802.00	Melbourne	\$802.00
26-May-25	28-May-25	Parliamentary Sitings	\$713.85	Melbourne	\$700.20
28-May-25	30-May-25	Accommodation in Darwin for business meeting relevant to electorate business to undertake research attending trade expo	\$735.88	Darwin	\$721.80
31-May-25	01-Jun-25	Accommodation in Darwin for business meeting relevant to electorate business to undertake research attending trade expo	\$265.17	Melbourne	\$260.10

<b>Total number of nights for travel allowance claims</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total amount paid to member for travel allowance</b>	<b>\$9,985.47</b>

\* Please note - this payment was an administrative error through the payment system, and will be rectified in the next quarter.

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
28/05/2025	31/05/2025	Return Flight to Darwin for business meeting relevant to Electorate Business to undertake research, attending meetings and carrying out administrative activities connected with Boating and Fishing relevant to constituents of Benambra.	\$3,611.44	Flights	\$3,611.44
28/05/2025	31/05/2025	Insurance for return Flights for Dawin	\$27.00	Insurance	27.00

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims 6

Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance \$3,638.44

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
22/06/2025	29/06/2025	Electorate business to Japan as a study tour to engage in meetings, discuss policy and review opportunities for future connections for the Electorate of Benambra.	\$7,596.90

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 7

Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$7,596.90

Parliament of Victoria

# Travel Report

Visit to Japan

22 June 2025 to 29 June 2025

**David Hodgett MP**

**Member for Croydon**

**Shadow Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation**

**Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations**

**Bill Tilley MP**

**Member for Benambra**

**Shadow Assistant Minister for Boating and Fishing**



## Overview

Visited Japan and met with senior representatives of Central Japan Railway Company, met with The Vice-Governor Aichi Prefecture, Japan and representatives of Aichi Prefectural Assembly, met with representatives of Osaka City Council, met with representatives of Papua New Guinea Tourism and Investment Promotion Authority, and met with the Research Analyst, Political and Economic Section, Consulate-General of Japan, and engaged in a wide range of discussions on High Speed Rail (HSR), transport and infrastructure; the design and construction of the new maglev service between Tokyo and Osaka, due to commence operation between Tokyo and Nagoya in 2034; discussed Aichi Prefecture Industries, including Innovation and Manufacturing, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ceramics, Steel and Alloy, and received a briefing on the business opportunities in the automotive, aerospace, and robotics sectors; briefed on Osaka's Infrastructure and Business Environment, had a discussion on business costs in Osaka and provided data on commercial and industrial land prices, office and warehouse rents, and average wage; briefed on the Grand Green Osaka Project, a major urban development hub project; and briefed on Osaka's startup ecosystem city to create innovation, and support business creation.

Met with the Corporate Officer - Chief General Manager, the General Manager, the Manager, and the Assistant Manager of the Consulting and Coordination Office – Overseas High Speed Railway Project JR-Central and participated in discussions, learning about JR Central's history, structure and operations, including an in depth discussion on the company lines, rolling stock, Shinkansen services and Conventional lines, train speeds, equipment, safety, and maintenance schedules. Discussed stations, profitability, and passenger numbers. Briefed on the development, construction, and costs of the new maglev service between Tokyo and Osaka, which is due to start operation between Tokyo and Nagoya in 2034. This included a briefing on the revolutionary Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) technology, which I will discuss more in the 'Learnings' section of this report. Learned about Tokaido Shinkansen's safety technologies, the Automatic Train Control (ATC) system, braking system, and countermeasures for earthquakes and emergencies. Took part in a further discussion on HSR in Australia and potential markets for High Speed Rail. Our visit to Central Japan Railway Company concluded with a tour of Shinagawa Station, a major railway station in Japan, operated by East Japan Railway Company (JR East), Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central), and the private railway operator Keikyu. Incidentally, Shinagawa Station will be the

terminal for the Chūō Shinkansen, a maglev line under construction and scheduled to begin service to Nagoya in 2034.

We met with Shinichiro Furumoto, Vice-Governor, Aichi Prefecture, Japan; with Fumihiro Nambu, Vice-Chairperson, Aichi Prefectural Assembly; with Toshinao Takakuwa, Chairperson, Session Steering Committee, Aichi Prefectural Assembly; with Yoko Ogawa, Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Aichi Prefectural Assembly; with Masayuki Tsuboi, Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Aichi Prefectural Assembly; and with Members of the Aichi Prefectural Assembly.

Participated in briefings and discussions and held meetings where we exchanged ideas and learned about Aichi Prefecture's Industries, including Innovation and Manufacturing, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ceramics, Steel and Alloy. We received a briefing on automotive, aerospace, and robotics sectors, offering numerous business opportunities. We were briefed on the Invest in Aichi -Nagoya Acceleration Initiative, and the Invest in Aichi-Nagoya Consortium. We discussed housing, education, transport, and infrastructure, and learned about Aichi Prefecture's history, culture, and demographics. We learned Aichi Prefecture is home to the Toyota Motor Corporation, and many Companies are headquartered in Aichi including the Central Japan Railway Company, Denso Corporation, Makita Corporation, and Okuma Corporation. We discussed international relations and Aichi Prefecture's 45 year sister relationship with Victoria, formed on 02 May 1980. We were briefed on "Aichi Agenda 21" – a program with activities to conserve the Local and Global environment. We had a further discussion on the Industry, Trade, and Investment Divisions of the Aichi Prefectural Government. We were informed that the Vice-Governor and Vice-Chairperson have delegations visiting Victoria State on the 20th and 21st October 2025.

Met with Aya Wada, Director General, International Relations For Economic Strategy Bureau, Osaka City Government; with Mihoko Arai, Director For International Relations, Economic Strategy Bureau, Osaka City Government; and with Masafumi Oono, Manager For International Relations, Business and International Promotion Division, Economic Strategy Bureau, Osaka City Council.

Briefed on Osaka's Infrastructure and Business Environment. Had a discussion on business costs in Osaka and we were provided data on commercial and industrial land prices; office and warehouse rents; and average wage.

We learned about the Port of Osaka distribution hub. Briefed on the Grand Green Osaka Project, a major urban development hub project. Had a briefing on Osaka's startup ecosystem city to create innovation, and support business creation. Discussed Osaka's sister relationship with the Port of Melbourne (1974) and with the City of Melbourne (1978).

*(I have included a paper titled 'INVEST OSAKA' outlining Osaka's Excellent Infrastructure and Business Environment; Osaka's Plentiful Business Opportunities; Osaka's Diverse Expanding Companies; and Osaka's Comprehensive Support for Expansion, at Attachment 2.)*

We visited and were briefed on World Expo 2025. The Expo venue showcases the future of society and demonstrates the world's most advanced technologies and social systems. Visited multiple pavilions, including the Health Design – Live Brighter pavilion, which showcases the current state of wellness and healthcare in Japan, with various exhibits and the latest medical equipment and information.

On a subsequent day, we were briefed on the theme of Expo 2025: Designing Future Society for Our Lives. Discussion on the design and construction of The Grand Ring at the Expo - The largest wooden architectural structure in the world, serving as the main route of visitor traffic around the Expo site. Visited multiple pavilions, and engaged in discussions with representatives from participating countries, nations, and regions.

*(I have included a guide to Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, provided to us by the Consulate-General of Japan, at Attachment 3.)*

*(I have included a copy of the Health Design Live Brighter next generation catalog, from the Health Design Live Brighter Pavilion, at Attachment 4.)*

Met with Simon Dari Pih, Senior Marketing Officer, International/Domestic Marketing and Promotions Division, Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority; and with Stewart Rom, Senior Marketing Officer, Marketing and Export Promotion Unit, Investment Promotion Authority, Papua New Guinea.

Briefed on the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority. Discussion on the economic value of tourism, industry development, policy development, and marketing. Provided statistics, research, and analysis on PNG Tourism promotion. Briefed on the Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority. Discussed trade, investment, and regulation of the business industry in PNG. Discussion on business opportunities in Papua New Guinea.

Visited Minamimido Buddhist Temple, learning about their activities, events, lectures, teachings, and ceremonies.

Met with Laura Hughes, Research Analyst, Political and Economic Section, Consulate-General of Japan. Extensive briefing on Japanese history, learning about Japanese art, culture, heritage, traditions, and customs. Briefing on Japan's political, business, and economic environment, and participated in a discussion on issues and opportunities. In depth discussion on a range of topics, including transport, infrastructure, housing, innovation, advanced manufacturing, health, and education. Further discussion on Expo 2025, the events and learning opportunities.

Met with Tomokazu Minesaki, PMP Manager, Central Japan Railway Company; and with Kosuke Sunami, PMP Deputy Manager, Central Japan Railway Company, and were briefed during a Shinkansen cab ride on board the fast train service for part of the journey between Osaka and Tokyo.

Extensive briefing on the systems and operations of The Nozomi Shinkansen (Bullet Train), one of Japan's fastest trains, traveling up to 300 km/h, (186 mph). Experienced a cab ride with the driver, discussing safety, procedures, controls, features, and operations of the train.

## Key Learnings

The discussions with key representatives of Central Japan Railway Company reinforced the continuing need for Australia to plan, invest, and deliver high speed rail (HSR), connecting cities, regions, and communities. These discussions also emphasised the economic benefits of HSR, the need for a dedicated HSR line, and supported fast, reliable, direct services, with only a few major anchor stations along the route. (i.e. the new high speed trains have operating speeds up to 320 KPH, so it's counterproductive to have these trains stopping all stations.)

The Australian Government has established the High Speed Rail Authority and is planning for a future high speed rail network to connect Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, and regional communities across the east coast of Australia. A business case for the first stage, connecting Newcastle to Sydney, is under assessment.

Further discussion and thought explored how HSR changes where people live and work and transforms the way people travel. It was clear to see the potential benefits of HSR in terms of housing and jobs in the regions.

Imagine a high speed rail service with an estimated trip time of 4 hours from Melbourne to Sydney. Imagine a high speed rail service with an estimated trip time of 30 to 40 minutes from Shepparton to Melbourne. Think what this would mean for connectivity to our regions – Geelong, Warrnambool, Hamilton, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton, Wodonga, and Latrobe Valley to name a few. It would connect regions, cities, and communities with a faster way to travel, and provide people with more options of where to live and work.

More in depth discussions explored topics such as unlocking housing opportunities; managing our growth, with greater housing choices and more affordable housing; cutting travel times and getting more cars off the roads.

A key learning here stressed the importance of early engagement and ongoing consultation and discussion with the major airline carriers and the communities along the proposed route.



Spending time with the Vice Governor Aichi Prefecture, Japan and Members of the Aichi Prefectural Assembly gave us an exceptionally good understanding of the Prefecture.

Aichi Prefecture is located in the Chubu Region. The prefectural capital of Nagoya is the region's largest and Japan's fourth largest city. The prefecture is home to the Toyota Motor Corporation and as such is a major centre of Japan's automotive industry.

We learned about 'Invest in Aichi -Nagoya - Acceleration Initiative,' a project to promote the entry and establishment of foreign and foreign-affiliated companies in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya City in order to create innovation, revitalise industry, and expand employment. We were informed the 'Invest In Aichi-Nagoya Consortium,' established by Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya City, and local support organizations, will take the lead in this project. The 'Invest In Aichi-Nagoya Consortium' was established on 25 March 2022, with the aim of fostering innovation, revitalizing industries, and expanding employment in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya City. It is composed of Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya City, Nagoya Industries Promotion Corporation, Aichi Prefectural University (ICT Technopolis Research Institute), and Nagoya City University.

Aichi Prefecture is home to the Toyota Motor Corporation, and companies such as Fuji Heavy Industries, Mitsubishi Motors, Pfizer, Sony, Suzuki. Bodycote, and Volkswagen Group also operate plants or branch offices in Aichi.

Our meetings with representatives of Osaka City Council gave us a good appreciation of Osaka's business environment, with a focus on their business cost advantage over other regions in Japan, and we were informed on key projects, opportunities and challenges facing the Council. The key learning here was Osaka's strengths in life science and new energy. Information was provided on medical and pharmaceutical manufacturers, medicine hubs, support for medical device businesses, the commercialising of medical supplies and devices, and medical clusters. We also were provided with information and data on batteries and new energy, with one of the world's largest testing facilities for large storage battery systems located in Osaka, and their support for carbon neutral technologies and business, through The Osaka Carbon Neutral Business Network.

We learned about Osaka's large talent pool and the main international schools in Osaka City. "In Osaka Prefecture, approximately 60,000 students graduate

and enter the workforce each year from 58 universities, 21 junior colleges, 1 technical college, and 108 medical-related vocational colleges”, (The City of Asaka, Business Development Department, Economic Strategy Bureau – August 2024).

We were informed about the creation of a smart city, with companies, universities, and government partnering to support startup businesses and creating a globally competitive startup ecosystem. Of particular interest was the business creation support for enterprises with advanced technology, and examples of the support given for pilot projects, startups, and incubation facilities.

The learning here was the numerous examples of support provided from the Osaka City Council for business, with a number of case studies presented on businesses, their reason for choosing Osaka City, and the support from Osaka City. The Osaka City Council provides comprehensive support and incentives for business for startups and/or business expansion.

We learned about Osaka hosting Expo 2025, the business opportunities and potential for economic growth. The Expo will showcase the future of society and demonstrate the world’s most advanced technologies and social systems.

While we visited multiple pavilions, of particular interest was the Health Design – Live Brighter pavilion, which showcases the current state of wellness and healthcare in Japan, with various exhibits and the latest medical equipment and information.

We learned about Robotic-Assisted Surgery System; next-generation Medical and Assistive Devices, and experienced some of these devices; predictive devices; the use of AI in care homes to enhance seniors’ lifelong well-being; experienced MITAS Medical’s MS1 – a tele-eye care service for seamless eye exams; and Next-gen Autofocus Eyewear to replace and extend focus, a device that auto-adjusts focus, supporting the eye’s natural focusing function.

Japan is the world’s most advanced ageing society with a falling birth rate, dwindling working-age population, and restrictive immigration policies. As a result, Japan is exploring the use of AI, including robots, for support for medical and elderly care. Witnessing the AI Nonomura Makoto Digital human for nursing homes demonstrated how it can interact with seniors living alone, providing conversation, answering questions, singing songs, etcetera.

“AI-powered virtual assistants can remind seniors to take medications, schedule appointments, and offer helpful advice on managing chronic conditions. Maintaining independence is crucial for seniors, and AI technology can play a significant role in supporting their autonomy.”

“Care robots can help the elderly navigate through loneliness and depression, subsequently improving their cognitive functions and quality of life (Lewis, 2014). They can perform a wide range of physical, cognitive, and social tasks to help people live healthier lives (Dankar and Badr, 2022).”

A recommendation of this report is to further explore the use of AI and its application to support medical and elderly care.

We also noted that annual health checks are part of your employment conditions in Japan. The learning here is that early detection of issues takes the pressure off the health system.

As discussed earlier in this report, in our discussions with senior representatives of Central Japan Railway Company, we learned about the revolutionary Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) technology, and were provided an in-depth briefing.

Maglev is derived from *magnetic levitation*, and is a system of rail transport whose rolling stock is levitated by electromagnets rather than rolled on wheels, eliminating rolling resistance. Compared to conventional railways, maglev trains have higher top speeds, superior acceleration and deceleration, lower maintenance costs, improved gradient handling, and lower noise.

The Superconducting Maglev is a contactless system that uses magnetic force generated between superconducting magnets on vehicle and ground coils. Unlike conventional rail systems involving wheels and rails, it is free from wheel slippage during acceleration and skidding during deceleration. The train can accelerate to 311 mph in a short distance and stop from that speed nearly as short a distance. This demonstrates SCMAGLEV's outstanding acceleration / deceleration performance compared to other conventional railway systems. This exceptional performance allows the train to maintain maximum speed for a large portion of its travel, enabling mass high-speed transportation at 311 mph.

The Superconducting Maglev uses the effect of the "Levitation and Guidance Coils" turning into magnets when other magnets come close. When superconducting magnets on vehicle pass by the Levitation and Guidance Coils at high speed, electric current runs through the Levitation and Guidance coils, generating magnetic force and levitating and maintaining the train at a height where the train's weight is balanced against the magnetic force. "Superconducting magnets" on vehicle and electromagnets on the guideway attract and repel one another, levitating the train by about 3.9 in. and propelling it forward.

## Recommendations

### High Speed Rail (HSR):

Governments need to review the plans and timelines for the construction of high speed rail in Australia. Connecting Newcastle to Sydney with HSR has been identified as Stage 1 of National HSR. The Victorian Government should position itself and advocate for the Melbourne to Wodonga HSR section to be the next priority.

High-speed rail in Australia has been under investigation since the early 1980s. Every federal government since this time has investigated the feasibility of constructing high-speed rail with speeds above 200 km/h, but to date nothing has ever gone beyond the detailed planning stage. Various corridors have been proposed for a potential high-speed line. The most commonly suggested route is between Australia's two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, which, as of 2023, is the world's sixth-busiest air corridor.

It was encouraging to see the establishment of the High Speed Rail Authority, a federal government agency, in 2023. The HSR Authority has been tasked with "advising on, planning, developing and overseeing the construction and operation of a transformational network along Australia's eastern seaboard". The authority's first priority is planning and corridor works for the Sydney to Newcastle section of a high-speed rail network, and again, it was very encouraging to learn that a business case for the first stage, connecting Newcastle to Sydney, is under assessment.

The Victorian Government should partner with the federal government and commence the planning, and corridor works for the Melbourne to Wodonga HSR section.

Furthermore, the Victorian Government should explore and prioritise HSR lines to connect our regions.

Governments need to be open to HSR project planning, and to engage in early consultation and discussion with the LGA's, business, industry, and the communities along proposed routes.

The Victorian Government could plan routes and undertake geotechnical investigations to inform future High Speed Rail Business Cases. Early works could be used to help inform construction methods and key details such as the

design and depth of potential rail tunnels. Environmental planning and assessment works could be undertaken, and a planning approval strategy could be developed in consultation with the relevant government agencies.

A significant funding commitment from both the Australian Government and the Victorian Government would give confidence to the delivery of high speed rail (HSR), and show a commitment to connecting our cities, regions, and communities.

#### Business Creation and Support:

Further analysis and investigation of Osaka City Council's business creation support for enterprises with advanced technology is warranted and should be explored. We could learn more about the support given for pilot projects, startups, and incubation facilities, and about the comprehensive support and incentives The Osaka City Council provides for business for startups and/or business expansion.

It should be noted that Osaka has a population of more than 19 million, compared to around 190,000 in the City of Melbourne. Being the Mayor of Osaka is more like being premier of Victoria. The city has 30,000 staff and controls hospitals, police, highways, and trains. As such, there is much we can learn from The Osaka City Council.

#### Sister City and International Relationships:

This report notes the international relations and Aichi Prefecture's 45 year sister relationship with Victoria, formed on 02 May 1980. This report also notes Osaka's sister relationship with the Port of Melbourne (1974) and with the City of Melbourne (1978).

These relationships are highly valued, respected and especially important. We should continue to promote, invest, and leverage these relationships, and foster cultural, educational, business, and technical exchanges at every opportunity.

We were informed the Vice-Governor, Aichi Prefecture, Japan and Vice-Chairperson, Aichi Prefectural Assembly have delegations visiting Victoria State on the 20th and 21st October 2025. It is recommended that we host a reception for these delegations at the Victorian Parliament. This will be conveyed to the Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne.

Use of AI in Care Homes to Enhance Seniors' lifelong Well-being:

It is recommended that we further explore the use of AI and its application and benefits to support medical and elderly care.

A further recommendation is that we investigate, study and research the next-generation Medical and Assistive Devices, comparing our understanding, development and use of these and other next-generation Medical and Assistive Devices.

**Reason for travel:**

Visit to Japan to investigate transport and infrastructure issues and opportunities and visit Expo 2025 as Electorate business.

**Travel Schedule:**

Sunday, 22 June 2025

- Depart Melbourne
- Arrive Japan

Monday, 23 June 2025

- Meetings with key representatives of JR Railway Company
- Tour of Shinagawa Station

Tuesday, 24 June 2025

- Travel to Nagoya
- Meetings with Representatives of Aichi Prefectural Assembly
- Dinner Meeting with Vice-Governor Aichi Prefecture, Japan, and Representatives of Aichi Prefectural Assembly
- Travel to Osaka

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

- Meetings with Representatives of Osaka City Council
- Tour of the Assembly Hall of Osaka City Council
- Visit to World Expo 2025
- Meetings with Representatives of Papua New Guinea Tourism and Investment Promotion Authority

Thursday, 26 June 2025

- Visit to World Expo 2025
- Visit to Minamimido Buddhist Temple
- Meeting and briefing with Representative of Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne Office

Friday, 27 June 2025

- Travel to Tokyo
- Meetings with Representatives of JR Railway Company
- Shinkansen cab ride for part of the journey between Osaka and Tokyo Briefing on operations, systems, technology and safety

Saturday, 28 & 29 June 2025

- Depart Japan
- Arrive Melbourne



**Accommodation:**

W. Tilley: I stayed 6 nights in Japan at a cost of \$2334.71 AUD.

**Commercial Transport:**

W. Tilley: I used internal rail transport in Japan at a cost of \$696.84 AUD.

**Attachment 1**

Overview of the meetings and briefings held during this visit.

**Attachment 2**

Paper titled 'INVEST OSAKA' outlining Osaka's Excellent Infrastructure and Business Environment; Osaka's Plentiful Business Opportunities; Osaka's Diverse Expanding Companies; and Osaka's Comprehensive Support for Expansion.

**Attachment 3**

Guide to Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, provided to us by the Consulate-General of Japan.

**Attachment 4**

Health Design Live Brighter Next Generation Catalog

We thank The representatives of Central Japan Railway Company; The Vice-Governor, Aichi Prefecture, Japan; The Vice-Chairperson, Aichi Prefectural Assembly and the Members of the Aichi Prefectural Assembly; The Director General, International Relations For Economic Strategy Bureau, Osaka City

Government and the Representatives of Osaka City Government; The Representatives of Papua New Guinea Tourism and Investment Promotion Authority; and The Research Analyst, Political and Economic Section, Consulate-General of Japan, who made time to meet with us during our visit.

David Hodgett MP  
Member for Croydon  
Shadow Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation  
Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations

Bill Tilley MP  
Member for Benambra  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Boating and Fishing

08 July 2025

## Attachment 1 - Overview of Meetings

<p>Meeting with Keiichi Kagayama Corporate Officer Chief General Manager Central Japan Railway Company</p>	<p>Date: 23 June 2025</p> <p>Discussed JR Central's history, structure, and operations.</p>
<p>Meeting with Kentaro Takeuchi, PMP General Manager Central Japan Railway Company</p>	<p>In depth discussion on the company lines, rolling stock, Shinkansen services and Conventional lines, train speeds, equipment, safety, and maintenance schedules.</p>
<p>Meeting with Tomokazu Minesaki, PMP Manager Central Japan Railway Company</p>	<p>Discussed stations, profitability, and passenger numbers.</p>
<p>Meeting with Daichi Kato Assistant Manager Central Japan Railway Company</p>	<p>Briefed on the development, construction, and costs of the new maglev service between Tokyo and Osaka, which is due to start operation between Tokyo and Nagoya in 2034.</p> <p>Briefing on the revolutionary Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) technology.</p> <p>Learned about Tokaido Shinkansen's safety technologies, the Automatic Train Control (ATC) system, braking system, and countermeasures for earthquakes and emergencies.</p>
<p>Central Japan Railway Company Offices Tokyo, 108-8204, Japan</p>	<p>Further discussion on HSR in Australia and potential markets for High Speed Rail.</p> <p>Tour of Shinagawa Station</p>

Meeting with Shinichiro Furumoto Vice-Governor Aichi Prefecture, Japan	Date: 24 June 2025
Meeting with Fumihiro Nambu Vice-Chairperson Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Discussion on Aichi Prefecture, Industries, including Innovation and Manufacturing, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ceramics, Steel and Alloy.
Meeting with Osamu Mineno Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Briefing on automotive, aerospace, and robotics sectors, offering numerous business opportunities.
Meeting with Kanbe Hiromi Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Briefed on the Invest in Aichi -Nagoya Acceleration Initiative, and the Invest in Aichi-Nagoya Consortium.
Meeting with Kenji Sakata Member Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Discussed housing, education, transport, and infrastructure.
Meeting with Toshinao Takakuwa Chairperson Session Steering Committee Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Learned about Aichi Prefecture's history, culture, and demographics.
Meeting with Takao Yamada Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Informed Aichi Prefecture is home to the Toyota Motor Corporation, and many Companies are headquartered in Aichi including the Central Japan Railway Company, Denso Corporation, Makita Corporation, and Okuma Corporation.
Meeting with Toshihide Hiramatsu Aichi Prefectural Assembly	
Meeting with Narimi Masuda Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Discussed international relations and Aichi Prefecture's 45 year sister relationship with Victoria, formed on 02 May 1980.
Meeting with Takaharu Itou Aichi Prefectural Assembly	
Meeting with Yoko Ogawa Assistant Director International Affairs Division Aichi Prefectural Assembly	Briefed on "Aichi Agenda 21" – a program with activities to conserve the Local and Global environment.

<p>Meeting with Masayuki Tsuboi Assistant Director International Affairs Division Aichi Prefectural Assembly</p> <p>Meeting with Mutsumi Teranishi Member Aichi Prefectural Assembly</p> <p>Nagoya, Aichi 460-8501, Japan</p>	<p>Further discussion on the Industry, Trade, and Investment Divisions of the Aichi Prefectural Government.</p> <p>Informed that the Vice-Governor and Vice-Chairperson have delegations visiting Victoria State on the 20th and 21st October 2025.</p>
<p>Meeting with Aya Wada Director General International Relations For Economic Strategy Bureau Osaka City Government</p> <p>Meeting with Mihoko Arai Director For International Relations Economic Strategy Bureau Osaka City Government</p> <p>Meeting with Masafumi Oono Manager For International Relations Business and International Promotion Division Economic Strategy Bureau Osaka City Council</p> <p>Osaka, 559-0034, Japan</p>	<p>Date: 25 June 2025</p> <p>Briefed on Osaka's Infrastructure and Business Environment.</p> <p>Discussion on business costs in Osaka and provided data on commercial and industrial land prices; office and warehouse rents; and average wage.</p> <p>Discussion on the Port of Osaka distribution hub.</p> <p>Briefed on the Grand Green Osaka Project, a major urban development hub project.</p> <p>Briefing on Osaka's startup ecosystem city to create innovation, and support business creation.</p> <p>Discussed Osaka's sister relationship with the Port of Melbourne (1974) and with the City of Melbourne (1978).</p>

<p>Visit to World Expo 2025</p> <p>Osaka, Kansai, Japan</p>	<p>Date: 25 June 2025</p> <p>Briefed on Expo 2025: The Expo venue showcases the future of society and demonstrates the world's most advanced technologies and social systems.</p> <p>Visited multiple pavilions, including the Health Design – Live Brighter pavilion, which showcases the current state of wellness and healthcare in Japan, with various exhibits and the latest medical equipment and information.</p>
<p>Meeting with Simon Dari Pih Senior Marketing Officer International/Domestic Marketing and Promotions Division Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority</p> <p>Meeting with Stewart Rom Senior Marketing Officer Marketing and Export Promotion Unit Investment Promotion Authority Papua New Guinea</p> <p>Osaka, Japan</p>	<p>Date: 25 June 2025</p> <p>Briefed on the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority.</p> <p>Discussion on the economic value of tourism, industry development, policy development, and marketing.</p> <p>Provided statistics, research, and analysis on PNG Tourism promotion.</p> <p>Briefed on the Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority.</p> <p>Discussed trade, investment, and regulation of the business industry in PNG.</p> <p>Discussion on business opportunities in Papua New Guinea.</p>



<p>Meeting with Laura Hughes Research Analyst Political and Economic Section Consulate-General of Japan</p> <p>Osaka, Japan</p>	<p>Date: 26 June 2025</p> <p>Extensive briefing on Japanese history, learning about Japanese art, culture, heritage, traditions, and customs.</p> <p>Briefing on Japan's political, business, and economic environment, and a discussion on issues and opportunities.</p> <p>In depth discussion on a range of topics, including transport, infrastructure, housing, innovation, advanced manufacturing, health, and education.</p> <p>Further discussion on Expo 2025, the events and learning opportunities.</p>
<p>Meeting with Tomokazu Minesaki, PMP Manager Central Japan Railway Company</p> <p>Meeting with Kosuke Sunami, PMP Deputy Manager Central Japan Railway Company</p> <p>Shinkansen cab ride on board the fast train service for part of the journey between Osaka and Tokyo</p>	<p>Date: 27 June 2025</p> <p>Extensive briefing on the systems and operations of The Nozomi Shinkansen (Bullet Train), one of Japan's fastest trains, traveling up to 300 km/h, (186 mph).</p> <p>Experienced a cab ride with the driver, discussing safety, procedures, controls, features, and operations of the train.</p>

Propelling with the "Propulsion Coils" and levitating with the "Levitation and Guidance Coils"