



**A.C.T. GOVERNMENT
ROSEMARY FOLLETT MLA
CHIEF MINISTER
MEDIA STATEMENT**

SISTER CITY AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED.

Chief Minister Rosemary Follett and the Mayor of the Japanese city of Nara (Mr Yasunori Ohkawa, will this evening sign documents completing a Sister City Agreement between the two cities.

The signing of the proclamation will be the primary focus of a two day visit to Canberra and district by Mayor Ohkawa and a large party of over one hundred officials and citizens from the ancient Japanese capital.

The Mayor's visit follows the A.C.T.'s first business delegation to Japan last year led by the Chief Minister.

"The signing of the Sister City Agreement formalises community to community ties between Canberra and Nara which have built up over a number of years. These include twinning agreements between the Australia-Japan Societies and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in both cities", Ms Follett said.

The working principles of the Sister City Agreement provide for mutual reception of delegations from various sectors of the community, arts, cultural and sports exchanges, co-operation in industry exchange and tourism promotion, interchange of information concerning history, culture, education and research and any other activities to foster goodwill and friendship between Canberra and Nara.

Ms Follett went on to say that these principles would be adopted by the community based Canberra/Nara Sister City Committee, which was set up following the A.C.T. business delegation's visit to Japan last year.

"The committee has already begun identifying potential areas for future activities", Ms Follett said.

The signing of the proclamation this evening will be held at a Civic Reception at the Albert Hall which will be attended by the Japanese delegation and a wide cross section of the Canberra Community.

Media contact.
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Ray Veldre.

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