

# Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Energy  
Minister for Mineral Resources  
Minister for State Development



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## **NSW seeks business opportunities in Japan**

Minister for State Development Ian Macdonald is in Japan this week exploring new trade and investment opportunities for NSW.

“I am holding a series of high-level meetings with business representatives to discuss opportunities to increase trade and investment between NSW and Japan,” Mr Macdonald said.

“We are starting to see indications that the global economic downturn is bottoming out, so it’s more important than ever that we position NSW for the upswing.

“We must step up our efforts to find new business and trade opportunities for NSW companies.

“Despite the economic slowdown, Japan remains the world’s second largest economy.

“Japan is and will remain a market of great significance to the NSW economy – it is the State’s leading export market for goods and services, with about \$8 billion in goods exported in 2007-08.

“This is more than the merchandise exports to our next three top markets – New Zealand, South Korea and the United States – combined.”

In Tokyo, Mr Macdonald is meeting with representatives of Mitsubishi Corporation to discuss the company’s coal interests in NSW and progress on their development of clean coal and other research and development projects.

“We will be discussing the outlook for the NSW coal industry, including production, infrastructure and Government initiatives, and the potential for further investment in NSW by Mitsubishi.

“I’ll also be meeting senior executives from energy company Idemitsu Kosan, which has three coal mines in NSW.

“Idemitsu is promoting the clean use of coal through its Coal and Environment Research Laboratory and, with other companies, working on the development of ultra clean coal.”

Mr Macdonald is also holding talks with the Mizuho financial group, one of the world’s largest companies, and with Sekisui House, the Japanese manufacturing firm, about business opportunities in NSW.

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The minister will also meet with Australian ambassador to Japan, Murray Mclean OAM, to discuss citrus exports and other matters.

