REMEMBERING THE JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI TRAGEDY

11 March 2013

Chief Minister Terry Mills has been honoured to accept an invitation from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to join him at the National Theatre together with Emperor Akihito to commemorate the second anniversary of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Mr Mills said he extended his condolences to the people of Japan and visited areas affected by the tsunami several weeks after the catastrophe.

“The tsunami resulted in more than 15,000 reported deaths and caused significant damage to Japan’s infrastructure,” Mr Mills said.

“While Japan is currently in the process of rebuilding, days such as this provide an opportunity to reflect on the tragedy, remember those who lost their lives and honour the Japanese for their strength in working together to recover.

“With the Japanese Government’s decision to scrap nuclear energy following the Fukushima power station melt-down, the Northern Territory’s gas supply will play an important role in securing the nation’s future energy needs.”

Mr Mills has brought with him to Tokyo 1000 paper cranes made by students and families across the Northern Territory to present as a token of support to the Japanese people.

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