



**Doug Parkinson, MLC**

Leader for the Government in the  
Legislative Council

Tuesday, 13 March 2007

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## **Japanese Teenage Ambassadors Welcomed**

*Picture Opportunity: Doug Parkinson will meet the Japanese Delegation at 4.45pm today at the Mercure Hotel, Hobart.*

Leader of the Government in the Upper House, Doug Parkinson, today welcomed a delegation of Japanese Teenage Ambassadors for a week-long visit to Tasmania.

Mr Parkinson also congratulated Mr Takuya Okada on the work of the AEON 1% Club which funds the 'Teenage Ambassadors' program.

"Through this program young Japanese and Tasmanian citizens are able to travel and learn about each others' countries and cultures, and this in turn helps raise Tasmania's international profile.

"AEON collects donations at its 7000 stores throughout Japan, part of which it channels into encouraging international culture and inter-personal exchange.

"It also supports environmental protection projects and the revitalization of local cultures and communities in various parts of the world.

"These are worth while endeavours and I congratulate the AEON Group on its vision that corporations can, and need to, play a leading role in contributing to communities and societies.

"The financial commitment to AEON's wide-ranging activities in both Japan and overseas, reflects its characteristics as a community-focused retail group with a strong commitment to partnership with consumers and the young citizens of the future."

The AEON 1% Club is funded from the pre-tax profits of the companies within the AEON group on the basis of 1% of those profits, and since its inception in 1989 the CLUB has given grants exceeding A\$80 million.

"Tasmania Feedlot PTY LTD in the North of the State is part of the AEON Group - this company accounted for a large proportion of Tasmania's beef sales to Japan which in 2005-06 totalled \$91 million."

Mr Parkinson said that the people of Tasmania share these ideals and recognise the importance of visits such as this.

"We therefore very much appreciate AEON's commitment to focussing the 2006- 07 Teenage Ambassadors program on Tasmania as part of the Year of Exchange celebrations."

**Further information:** Shaun Rigby on 0438021936