



# **Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Sunday 10 February 2013

### **SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TURNS RED FOR YEAR OF THE SNAKE**

The Sydney Opera House has been lit up in red tonight to mark the start of Chinese New Year.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said turning one of the world's most recognisable buildings red was a tribute to the contribution Chinese-Australians have made to Sydney, NSW and Australia.

"We have a long history and strong friendship with China and its people," said Mr O'Farrell, who was joined at the event by H.E. Duan Jielong, Consul General (ambassadorial rank) of the People's Republic of China in Sydney and NSW Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello.

"Chinese-Australians have been played a huge part in Sydney's history from the earliest immigrants arriving here in 1827 to today where more than 378,000 Chinese-Australians call NSW home.

"I am delighted to turn on these red lights on the world famous Sydney Opera House to mark the arrival of the Year of the Snake.

"I am sure these images will be of interest to millions of people across China. NSW is already a popular destination for Chinese tourists and students and we look forward to welcoming many more Chinese to Sydney and our state this year.

"Later this year I will lead my third trade mission to China as Premier to build on our vitally important economic relationship, explore new opportunities for NSW businesses and deepen our cultural ties.

"I wish all Chinese-Australians a safe and prosperous New Year," Mr O'Farrell said.

Minister for Communities Victor Dominello said this event, involving an internationally recognised icon, will help cement the already strong bonds between NSW and China.

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