



# **MINUTES**

## **International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 14 August 2024**

**Date: Wednesday, 14 August 2024**

**Time: 11:00 AM**

**Location: Council Chambers (Darrandirra)  
Level 1, Civic Centre  
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin**

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS (DARRANDIRRA), LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE,  
HARRY CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2024 AT 11:00 AM**

**PRESENT:**

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis (Chair)

General Manager, Tourism Top End Samantha Bennett

Trade Access Coordinator, Port of Darwin Harry Cao

Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Team Leader Learning Abroad, Charles Darwin University, Amelia Kruger

General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy

Chief Executive Officer, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

Director, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade NT Suzy Wilson-Uilelea

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

**OFFICERS:**

Emma Struys, Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Cherry Cai, Manager of Economic Development and International Relations

Neza Garcia, Executive Assistant Innovation

**APOLOGY:**

CEO, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

**GUESTS:**

Board Member, Tourism Top End Alana Madden

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Drew Boekel

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting Declared Open .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country .....</b>	<b>4</b>
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<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes .....</b>	<b>4</b>
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9.4	2024-26 Terms of Reference Review .....	6
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10.2	Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing Sister-Port Relationship Between Shenzhen Port of the People's Republic of China and Port of Darwin of Australia .....	7
<b>11</b>	<b>General Business.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting to the Public .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## **1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:02 am.

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country.*

*We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region.*

*We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future.*

*City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.*

## **3 APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### **3.1 Apologies**

CEO, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

### **3.2 Leave of Absence**

### **3.3 Leave of Absence Notified**

Nil

## **4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE**

Nil

## **5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

### **5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members**

Nil

### **5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff**

Nil

## **6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC012/24**

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

THAT the minutes of the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 26 June 2024 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 9/0**

## **7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

## 8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

## 9 OFFICER REPORTS

### 9.1 2022-2024 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC013/24

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

1. THAT the report entitled 2022-2024 International Relations Advisory Committee Review be received and noted.
2. THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee conduct the Committee review as in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED 9/0**

### 9.2 COURTESY CALLS

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC014/24

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the report entitled Courtesy Calls be received and noted.

**CARRIED 9/0**

### 9.3 VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC015/24

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the report entitled Verbal Updates from the International Relations Advisory Committee be received and noted.

**CARRIED 9/0**

General Manager, Tourism Top End Samantha Bennett

- Tourism season had a late start and the numbers are a little skewed. In previous years, tourists come around Easter time, however, this year, there is a decline in visitation numbers.
- Darwin Festival has started and is more marketed towards locals, however, the number of attendees increased since there was a better uptake from tourism with help from hotel general managers pitching and promoting the festival.
- Cruise Ships starts on 28 August and there are 11 cruise ships already identified for the season with over 1,000 passengers and tourists. Further, Top Enders are taking carriage and have put out an EOI for the bus transfers.

- There are plans to have this as a ticketed service to make it more sustainable and not operate as an ongoing free service. However, this is being started as a pilot system and not yet completely locked in, and there will be more focus on tourism and visitor experience rather than just a coach service.

Team Leader Learning Abroad, Charles Darwin University, Amelia Kruger

- In terms of international relations, CDU's global engagement has increased at the beginning of the year, and partnership agreements have likewise increased.
- The Vice-Chancellor previously visited China and the CDU delegation is currently visiting Indonesia.

Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

- Sister City Advisory Committee have its new members and had its first committee meeting two weeks ago.
- Indonesian community is looking into conducting an Indonesian Festival in Darwin, although it has not been announced yet, the tentative date is on 5 October.
- Looking into leading a business delegation to Indonesia to attend the Indonesian Trade Expo and an invitation will likewise be sent to the Lord Mayor.

Chief Executive Officer, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

- The tourism strategic plan has been completed.
- There is a plan to conduct a cultural festival that will be led by the Larrakia Nation. This may be a 4-day festival that may happen end of September or October 2025.
- The first concept meeting included NT Major Business Group, Tourism NT, and tourism representatives are looking to invite City of Darwin representatives to succeeding meetings.

Director, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade NT Suzy Wilson-Uilelea

- Provided a brief background on her previous experience and other international postings before becoming the new Director of the NT.
- The Department is looking to implement Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040 and to involve Northern Australia more.
- Timor-Leste parliamentary delegates are visiting Darwin from 16 July to 23 July.

#### 9.4 2024-26 TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

##### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC016/24

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

1. THAT the report entitled 2024-26 Terms of Reference Review be received and noted.
2. THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee recommend the proposed changes of the Terms of Reference at **Attachment 1** and refer these to Council for approval.
3. THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee sets its meeting schedule for 2024 – 2026 as follows:
  - I. meetings to be held on Wednesdays
  - II. meetings to be held at 11:00 am
  - III. meetings to be held at Meeting Room Chambers (Darrandirra), Civic Centre or electronically via Microsoft Teams

**IV. meetings to be held on the following dates:**

- a. 27 November 2024
- b. 12 March 2025
- c. 18 June 2025
- d. 17 September 2025
- e. 26 November 2026
- f. 18 February 2026
- g. 24 June 2026

**CARRIED 9/0****10 MEMBER REPORTS****10.1 UPDATE ON THE MEETING WITH HO CHI MINH AT WCS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC017/24**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

THAT the report entitled Update on the meeting with Ho Chi Minh at WCS be received and noted.

**CARRIED 9/0****10.2 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ESTABLISHING SISTER-PORT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHENZHEN PORT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND PORT OF DARWIN OF AUSTRALIA****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC018/24**

Moved: Trade Access Coordinator, Port of Darwin Harry Cao

Seconded: CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

THAT the report entitled Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing Sister-Port Relationship Between Shenzhen Port of the People's Republic of China and Port of Darwin of Australia be received and noted.

**CARRIED 9/0****11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**12 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC****RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019*:

**18.1 Sister Cities Action Plan 2024-26**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) and 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

**18.2 2025 Darwin Event Plan Discussion**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.



**The Meeting closed at 11:26 am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 27 November 2024.**

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**CHAIR**