



# **MINUTES**

## **International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 27 November 2024**

**Date: Wednesday, 27 November 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, 27 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 11:00 AM**

**PRESENT:**

General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy  
Deputy General Manager, Tourism Top End Jason Yule  
Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng  
Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan  
Charles Darwin University Marisa Briston  
Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland  
Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade NT Drew Boekel

**OFFICERS:**

Cherry Cai, Manager of International Relations and Sponsorship  
Neza Garcia, Executive Assistant Innovation

**APOLOGY:**

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis  
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris  
CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

## Order of Business

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<b>13</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting to the Public .....</b>	<b>8</b>

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC012/24**

Moved: CEO, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

Seconded: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

THAT General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy is appointed as interim chair for the meeting.

**CARRIED 7/0**

**1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:00 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**

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

**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 IRACC013/24**

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Seconded: Deputy General Manager, Tourism Top End Jason Yule

THAT the minutes of the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 14 August 2024 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 7/0**

**7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

**8 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**9 OFFICER REPORTS****9.1 HAIKOU DELEGATION VISIT UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC014/24**

Moved: CEO, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

Seconded: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

THAT the report entitled Haikou delegation visit update be received and noted.

**CARRIED 7/0**

**9.2 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC015/24**

Moved: Charles Darwin University Marisa Briston

Seconded: CEO, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

1. THAT the report entitled International Relations Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be received and noted.
2. THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee sign the Terms of Reference and return them to City of Darwin before COB on Friday, 6 December 2024.
3. THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee reschedule the meeting on Wednesday, 17 September 2025 at 11:00 am to Wednesday, 1 October 2025 at 11:00 am, due to Local Government elections.

**CARRIED 7/0**

### 9.3 2024/25 SISTER CITIES ACTIONS UPDATE

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC016/24**

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Seconded: Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng

THAT the report entitled 2024/25 Sister Cities Actions Update be received and noted.

**CARRIED 7/0**

### 9.4 DISCOVER DARWIN INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC017/24**

Moved: Charles Darwin University Marisa Briston

Seconded: CEO, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

THAT the report entitled Discover Darwin Investment Prospectus be received and noted.

**CARRIED 7/0**

## 10 MEMBER REPORTS

### 10.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATE

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC018/24**

Moved: Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade NT Drew Boekel

Seconded: Charles Darwin University Marisa Briston

1. THAT the report entitled Members Verbal Update be received and noted.
2. THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee members provide verbal updates on the projects/programs for the public agenda.

**CARRIED 7/0**

Charles Darwin University, Marisa Briston

- There is still some uncertainty in the landscape of the legislation regarding education services for overseas students coming to the Northern Territory
- Darwin City Centre campus is now open with business and law courses offered as well as some courses from the Waterfront and Casuarina campuses
- In terms of international relations, CDU's global engagement has increased at the beginning of the year, and partnership agreements have likewise increased
- CDU delegation, including the Vice-Chancellor, visited China to discuss student exchange programs, as well as research and expansion of some joint programs
- Timor Leste delegation visited with representatives from different universities to discuss upskilling opportunities for their academics and look into developing a PhD school for their staff, and
- State Institute for Christian Studies from Ambon likewise visited.

Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

- AIBC national conference was held recently in Sydney and the Northern Territory Government and Republic of Indonesia have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen collaboration on critical mineral and strategic material supply chains, and
- International Conference of Australia/Indonesia Business Council in Bali next year.

Deputy General Manager, Tourism Top End Jason Yule

- Singapore Airlines is still servicing as our international provider and Qantas Airways will start services by the end of March 2025
- International cruise ship arrivals
- Considerable inquiries re business events for next year, and
- Darwin has been earmarked as a possible site for international business events in 2026 and 2027.

Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng

- Busy with the cruise season
- Plans for an additional wharf are still in negotiation
- MOU has been signed between Shenzhen and Darwin Port, and
- Electric cars arriving in Darwin for transfer to Adelaide in collaboration with Aurizon.

Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

- International Business Council Awards re Exports Awards recently concluded
- Collaborating with AIBC and the Indonesian consulate regarding the visit to Lombok next week to sign a letter of intent with areas of interest relating to ports, tourism, mining, regional education, maritime and exploration opportunities, and
- Stepping down as CEO by end-of-the-year.

Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade NT Drew Boekel

The following items have strong relevance to the City of Darwin's relationships with the Southeast Asian region:

- Australia's Consul-General in Makassar, Todd Dias, will be in Darwin for meetings 5-7 December 2024
- Australia's Head of Post-designate to Jakarta will be in Darwin for meetings 8-10 January 2025
- Two DFAT grants are open:
  - a. Australia-Indonesia Institute's (All) grant is available at this [link](#). Applications are due 14 January 2025. Questions regarding the grant can be made to the All Secretariat on 02 6261 3821 or [ausindonesia.institute@dfat.gov.au](mailto:ausindonesia.institute@dfat.gov.au)
  - b. ASEAN-Australia Council's grant is available at this [link](#). Applications are due 10 January 2025. Timor-Leste is included in this remit. Questions regarding the grant can be made to the AAC via [aseanaustraliacentre@dfat.gov.au](mailto:aseanaustraliacentre@dfat.gov.au)

**General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy**

- Finalising the new Darwin Brand story, which has been shared with a few key stakeholders for feedback, and
- the next stage of the project is to develop a brand toolkit which can be utilised by retailers and organisations to promote Darwin.

**11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**12 NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 12 March 2025 at 11:00 am

**13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

**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 Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Friendship City Relationship Between City of Darwin and Ho Chi Minh City**

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.



## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 am.

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 11:45 am.

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 12 March 2025.**

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**CHAIR**