



# **MINUTES**

## **International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 18 June 2025**

**Date: Wednesday, 18 June 2025**

**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, 18 JUNE 2025 AT 11:00 AM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris  
Deputy General Manager, Tourism Top End Jason Yule  
Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan  
Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng  
Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University Shannon Holborn  
General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy  
Director, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade NT Suzy Wilson-Uilelea  
CEO Dept. of Trade, Business and Asian Relations Hayley Richards

**OFFICERS:**

Emma Struys, Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development  
Vanya Bosiocic, Manager Economic Development

**APOLOGY:**

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis  
Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley  
CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

**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>
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies &amp; Leave Of Absence .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Electronic Attendance .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Actions Arising from Previous Minutes .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Presentations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Officer Reports.....</b>	<b>5</b>
9.1	Welcome to the Newest Member of the International Relations Advisory Committee 2024-2026.....	5
9.2	2025 Darwin Fusion Update .....	5
9.3	Sister Cities Action Plan Update.....	5
<b>10</b>	<b>Member Reports .....</b>	<b>6</b>
10.1	Members Verbal Updates.....	6
<b>11</b>	<b>General Business.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Next Meeting .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting to the Public .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Adjournment of Meeting.....</b>	<b>7</b>

*Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng was not present at the commencement of the meeting*

## **1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:08 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

Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley

CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

### **3.2 Leave of Absence**

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

Nil

## **4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE**

Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng

## **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 IRACC009/25**

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

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

THAT the minutes of the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 12 March 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 7/0**

**7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

**8 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**9 OFFICER REPORTS****9.1 WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2024-2026****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC010/25**

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Seconded: Deputy General Manager, Tourism Top End Jason Yule

THAT the report entitled 'Welcome to the Newest Member of the International Relations Advisory Committee 2024-2026' be received and noted.

**CARRIED 7/0**

*Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng joined the meeting at 11:20 am*

**9.2 2025 DARWIN FUSION UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC011/25**

Moved: Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University Shannon Holborn

Seconded: CEO Dept. of Trade, Business and Asian Relations Hayley Richards

THAT the report entitled 2025 Darwin Fusion Update be received and noted.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**9.3 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC012/25**

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

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

THAT the report entitled Sister Cities Action Plan Update be received and noted.

**CARRIED 8/0**

## 10 MEMBER REPORTS

### 10.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC013/25

Moved: CEO Dept. of Trade, Business and Asian Relations Hayley Richards

Seconded: Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University Shannon Holborn

THAT the report entitled Members Verbal Updates be received and noted.

**CARRIED 8/0**

Port of Darwin, Ben Cheng

- Mentioned that there are a lot of cruise ships arriving in Darwin
- Likewise mentioned that to his knowledge, there was a meeting that occurred between Darwin Airport and Southern Airlines regarding flights to China

Sister City Advisory Committee, Kate Heelan

- On behalf of the Australian Indonesian Business Council, wanted to congratulate City of Darwin for the successful culmination of Darwin Fusion 2025, which provided significant traction for Indonesian businesses

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

- Ambassador of Athens arriving in July and keen to engage with the Greek community in Darwin
- Timor Leste delegates arriving between August and September
- Ambassador for First Nations People has recently completed visits

Dept. of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, Hayley Richards

- Minister Cahill travelling to Malaysia next week and taking a delegation of international education to Sarawak. She will be flying on the first Air Asia flight back to Darwin
- More talks regarding Air Asia flight options
- Minister Cahill announced an EOI from interested parties from the business sector to visit Osaka, Japan as part of its official delegation

City of Darwin, Alice Percy

- Noted that City of Darwin is currently seeking a Friendship City relationship with Joetsu, Japan where a City of Darwin delegate visited 2 years ago and it would be great if the NTG delegates could discuss the relationship if the opportunity presents itself in Osaka
- Thanked Minister Cahill for hosting a reception for Darwin Fusion

Charles Darwin University, Shannon Holborn

- Previously hosted an Indonesian think tank that was a successful event and one of the outcomes was to look at further engagement with universities and businesses in Indonesia with focus on language teaching, tourism and student programs
- Appointment of an Associate Vice Chancellor for Indonesia to strengthen relationships
- CDU is bringing a delegation to South Asia in September, particularly in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Nepal
- Continuous lobbying and advocacy to consistently promote Darwin as a great destination for international studies
- The first cohort of international students from Timor Leste has successfully completed studies under the teaching program

**11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**12 NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 11:00 am

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

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 8 of the Local Government 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:

**16.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATE**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(e) 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 subject to subregulation 51(3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

**14 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC014/25**

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Seconded: Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University Shannon Holborn

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 11:44 am

**CARRIED 8/0**

**The Meeting closed at 11.44 am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 01 October 2025.**

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**CHAIR**