



MINUTES

**International Relations Advisory
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 31 May 2023**

**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, 31 MAY 2023 AT 11:00 AM**

PRESENT:

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris
Charles Darwin University, Vice-President Global and External Shannon Holborn
City of Darwin, General Manager Innovation Alice Percy
Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff
Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan
Top End Tourism Board Member Sam Bennet
Port of Darwin, Chief Executive Officer Peter Dummett

OFFICERS:

Cherry Cai (Manager of Economic Development and International Relations)

APOLOGY:

Austrade, Territory Liaison Advisor Daniel Hall
Chamber of Commerce NT, Chief Executive Officer Greg Ireland
Darwin International Airport, Chief Executive Officer Tony Edmondstone
Department of Tourism, Industry and Trade, General Manager Louis Da Rocha
Larrakia Nation, Chief Executive Officer Michael Rotumah
Department of Foreign Affairs Donald Mortimore

GUESTS:

Alternate Councillor Brian O'Gallagher
Councillor Ed Smelt

Order Of Business

1	Meeting Declared Open	4
2	Acknowledgement of Country	4
3	Apologies & Leave Of Absence	4
4	Electronic Attendance	4
5	Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff	4
6	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	4
7	Actions Arising from Previous Minutes	4
8	Presentations	5
9	Officer Reports	5
9.1	Darwin Sister Cities Action Plan 2023-24	5
9.2	Update on the Friendship City proposal with City of Kupang and City of Bacolod	5
9.3	Establishment of New Friendship City with Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	5
10	Member Reports	6
10.1	Committee Members Verbal Updates.....	6
11	General Business	7
	Nil	
12	Next Meeting	7
13	Closure of meeting	7

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:00am.

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

3.2 Leave of Absence

Austrade, Territory Liaison Advisor Daniel Hall, Chamber of Commerce NT, Chief Executive Officer Greg Ireland, Darwin International Airport, Chief Executive Officer Tony Edmondstone, Department of Tourism, Industry, and Trade, General Manager Louis Da Rocha, Larrakia Nation, Chief Executive Officer Michael Rotumah, Department of Foreign Affairs Donald Mortimore.

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members

5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC010/23

Moved: Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

That the minutes of the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 10 March 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9/0

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS**9.1 DARWIN SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN 2023-24****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC011/23**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Top End Tourism Board Member Sam Bennet

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/0**9.2 UPDATE ON THE FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH CITY OF KUPANG AND CITY OF BACOLOD****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC012/23**

Moved: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

Seconded: Top End Tourism Board Member Sam Bennet

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/0**9.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FRIENDSHIP CITY WITH HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC013/23**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff

Council Officers plan to recommend the following at a subsequent Council meeting:

1. THAT the report entitled Establishment of a New Friendship City with Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam be received and noted.
2. THAT City of Darwin begin exploring the opportunity to establish a new friendship city with Ho Chi Minh City.

CARRIED 9/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS

10.1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC014/23

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Top End Tourism Board Member Sam Bennet

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

Port of Darwin, Chief Executive Officer Peter Dummett: Update on export trade including the cattle export to Vietnam market and the commodities export.

Top End Tourism Board Member Sam Bennet: Tourism Top End is supporting the workforce program from Denpasar.

Charles Darwin University, Vice-President Global and Externa Shannon Holborn: Charles Darwin University is planning a trip to China in September.

Chair of Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan: The Sister City Advisory Committee members have put forward proposals that have formed the Sister City Action Plan. Thanks to the Committees for supporting the Plan and it is now being implemented.

Alice Percy: Thank you to Cherry Cai and Emma Struys for the planning and management of the Darwin International Dragon Boat Festival 2023.

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris: Update on the Discover Darwin website and seeking feedback from the International Relations Advisory Committee on the Discover Darwin website, and potential co-funding opportunity for the Discover Darwin website.

GM of Darwin Convention Centre Peter Savoff: The Darwin Convention Centre has well and truly established itself as one of Australia's premier business event venues and is on track to achieve a record-breaking year.

Hosting over 120 events annually, the Centre is the preferred destination for five major global conferences in 2023, including:

- World Aquaculture (held in May and attracted over 1,500 delegates)
- 21st Symposium on Health-Related Water Microbiology
- World Community Development Conference
- Ninth Congress of the International Society for the Study of Iron in Biology and Medicine
- Joint Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Safety & Quality/International Society Rapid Response Systems Conference

These prestigious events bring together some of the best scientists, researchers, doctors and practitioners, as well as business and government leaders, to discuss the most pressing issues and challenges facing the world today. Hosting these events in Darwin also ensures the Territory has the latest access to data and information from world-leading experts.

It is also an opportunity to promote the Northern Territory's iconic landscapes, nature-based experiences and enriching culture to an international audience and showcase why we are one of the most competitive, distinctive and meaningful destinations in the world for business events.

Delegate contribution to the local economy is estimated to be \$60 million for the 2023 financial year, setting a new record for the Darwin Convention Centre. Next year is expected to be even better, with approximately 20,000 national and international delegates anticipated.

CARRIED 9/0

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT MEETING

16 August 2023, 11:00am – 12:00pm.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:35am.