



# **MINUTES**

**International Relations Advisory  
Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 29 November 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, 29 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 11:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis  
Councillor Brian O'Gallagher  
Chamber of Commerce NT, Chief Executive Officer Greg Ireland  
Charles Darwin University, Vice President Shannon Holborn  
City of Darwin, General Manager Innovation Alice Percy  
Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Drew Boekel  
Port of Darwin, Chief Executive Officer Peter Dummett  
Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan  
Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden

**OFFICERS:** Executive Manager Growth & Economic Development Emma Struys  
Manager Economic Development & International Relations Cherry Cai

**APOLOGY:** Darwin International Airport, Chief Executive Officer Tony Edmondstone  
Department of Tourism, Industry and Trade, General Manager Luis Da Rocha  
Larrakia Nation, Chief Executive Officer Michael Rotumah  
Austrade, Territory Liaison Advisor Daniel Hall

**GUESTS:** Nil

**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	Friendship City Proposal from Vyas Municipality, Gandaki, Nepal.....	5
9.2	City of Joetsu friendship city proposal update .....	5
9.3	Sister City Agreement Update with Tiwi Islands Regional Council.....	5
9.4	Discover Darwin Linkedin Marketing Plan .....	6
9.5	Mayor's Forum Travel Update .....	6
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9.7	Youth Group visit from Kampala Capital City Council, Uganda.....	7
<b>10</b>	<b>Member Reports .....</b>	<b>7</b>
10.1	Friendship City proposal with the City of Quanzhou .....	7
10.2	Members Verbal Updates.....	7
<b>11</b>	<b>General Business.....</b>	<b>8</b>
	The Committee requested a presentation from Darwin International Airport on the update of the runway development.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Next Meeting .....</b>	<b>8</b>
	11am 13 March 2024	

## 1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

Councillor Brian O'Gallagher 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

Darwin International Airport, Chief Executive Officer Tony Edmondstone

Department of Tourism, Industry and Trade, General Manager Luis Da Rocha

Larrakia Nation, Chief Executive Officer Michael Rotumah

Austrade, Territory Liaison Advisor Daniel Hall

### 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

### 5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC023/23

Moved: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

Seconded: Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff

That the minutes of the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 16 August 2023 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 10/0**

**7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

**8 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**9 OFFICER REPORTS****9.1 FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL FROM VYAS MUNICIPALITY, GANDAKI, NEPAL****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC024/23**

Moved: Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden

Seconded: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

THAT the report entitled Friendship City Proposal from Vyas Municipality, Gandaki, Nepal be received and noted.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee provides support and recommends City of Darwin to proceed the research process to consider the Friendship city proposal from Vyas Municipality, Gandaki Nepal.

**CARRIED 10/0****9.2 CITY OF JOETSU FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC025/23**

Moved: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

Seconded: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

THAT the report entitled City of Joetsu Friendship City Proposal Update be received and noted.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee provide feedback and comments on the information to be included in the meeting with the Mayor of Joetsu in March 2024.

**CARRIED 10/0**

The Lord Mayor arrived at 11:15 am and chaired the meeting. Councillor Brian O'Gallagher finished the chairing.

**9.3 SISTER CITY AGREEMENT UPDATE WITH TIWI ISLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC026/23**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

THAT the report entitled Sister City Agreement Update with Tiwi Islands Regional Council be received and noted.

**CARRIED 10/0**

#### 9.4 DISCOVER DARWIN LINKEDIN MARKETING PLAN

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC027/23**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden

THAT the report entitled Discover Darwin LinkedIn Marketing Plan be received and noted.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee members leverage Discover Darwin LinkedIn to connect to businesses and the community from our Sister and Friendship cities and promote Darwin to international markets by providing information focusing on live, study, work and invest in Darwin.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee provided the following comments:

- Our town video is great. Video script can be translated into multiple language, and
- Charles Darwin University will support the promotion

**CARRIED 10/0**

#### 9.5 MAYOR'S FORUM TRAVEL UPDATE

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC028/23**

Moved: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

Seconded: Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff

THAT the report entitled Mayor's Forum Travel Update be received and noted.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee to explore the option to record Lord Mayor's presentation.

**CARRIED 10/0**

#### 9.6 CITY OF DARWIN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UPDATE

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC029/23**

Moved: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

Seconded: Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden

THAT the report entitled City of Darwin International Relations Update be received and noted.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee members provide City of Darwin officers with any content they consider appropriate for the next March/April update before 29 February 2024.

**CARRIED 10/0**

**9.7 YOUTH GROUP VISIT FROM KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY COUNCIL, UGANDA****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

Seconded: Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden

THAT the report entitled Youth Group Visit from Kampala Capital City Council, Uganda be received and noted.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee to provide the feedback and comments on the visit request from Kampala Capital City Council to Darwin.

**LOST 3/7****10 MEMBER REPORTS****10.1 FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF QUANZHOU****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC030/23**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

That the report be received and noted.

That the International Relations Advisory Committee support the Friendship City Proposal with the City of Quanzhou.

**CARRIED 10/0****10.2 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC031/23**

Moved: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

Seconded: Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden

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

- Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff
  - Conferences and events hosted at DCC over the last three (3) months:
    - 17<sup>th</sup> Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (August 2023) – over 16,000 visitors
    - Puliima 2023 Conference (August 2023) – 1,000 delegates
    - 10<sup>th</sup> SNAICC National Conference (September 2023) - 1,850 delegates
    - NT Resources Week (September 2023) – 550 delegates
    - 2023 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge (October 2023) - 1,000 delegates and visitors
    - 2023 Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector (October 2023) – 450 pax
    - The 11<sup>th</sup> Aboriginal Economic Development Forum 2023 (November 2023) – 450 delegates
    - 2023 NT Brolga Tourism Awards (November 2023) – 450 pax

- Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden
  - Darwin Waterfront Corporation won the Major Tourist Attractions award from the 2023 Brolga NT Tourism Awards
  - Northern Territory will be showcased for next year's National Tourism Awards which will be held in Darwin
- City of Darwin, General Manager Innovation Alice Percy
  - City of Darwin 2022 Darwin International Virtual Trade Show won the national award from the Sister Cities Australia for the tourism and trade category
  - The 2023 Darwin International Dragon Boat Festival was nominated for the 2023 Chief Minister's Export Awards
  - City of Darwin won the Chambers Excellence in events/international trade delegation in supporting NT export activities and businesses
  - Lord Mayor The Hon Kon Vatskalis is the Chair of the CCCLM next year
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Drew Boekel
  - Recognised the importance of Southeast Asia, particularly Darwin, which considers itself a city within Southeast Asia
  - The 'Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040' provides a practical roadmap to increase Australia's two-way trade and investment in Southeast Asia
    - This report seeks to ensure we are jointly positioned to maximise the potential of our economic ties, from now until 2040, and beyond
  - Wants to work closely with the Northern Territory to ensure a coordinated approach
- Charles Darwin University, Vice-President Global and External Shannon Holborn
  - Exceeded targets and achieved positive outcomes for 2023
  - Will be visiting seven (7) cities in China in 2024
  - Will be visiting Vietnam in March 2024
  - Opening CDU Campus in Darwin CBD by July 2024 for international students
  - Working with interested private developers for student accommodations with a possible target of completion by 2026
- Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan
  - AIBCNT delegation visited Jakarta
  - AIBC signed MOU with Jakarta CEO Business Group
  - AIBCNT delegation will be travelling to Bali in March 2024 as a follow up meeting with Jakarta delegation

**CARRIED 10/0**

## **11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Committee requested a presentation from Darwin International Airport on the update of the runway development.

## **12 NEXT MEETING**

11am 13 March 2024