



# **MINUTES**

## **International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 12 March 2025**

**Date: Wednesday, 12 March 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, 12 MARCH 2025 AT 11:00 AM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris  
Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan  
Deputy General Manager, Tourism Top End Jason Yule  
Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng  
Director of CDU Global, Charles Darwin University Adam Lam  
Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley  
General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy  
Director, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade NT Suzy Wilson-Uilelea

**OFFICERS:**

Cherry Cai, Manager of International Relations and Sponsorship

**APOLOGY:**

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis  
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>4</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Presentations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Officer Reports.....</b>	<b>5</b>
9.1	2025 Darwin Sister City Award - Storytelling Competition Update .....	5
9.2	Darwin Fusion 2025 .....	5
9.3	Sister Cities Action Plan Update.....	5
9.4	Update on Friendship City proposal with the City of Ho Chi Minh .....	6
<b>10</b>	<b>Member Reports .....</b>	<b>6</b>
10.1	Members Verbal Update .....	6
<b>11</b>	<b>General Business.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting to the Public .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Adjournment of Meeting.....</b>	<b>8</b>

## 1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:03 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

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 IRACC001/25

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 27 November 2024 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 8/0**

## 7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

## 8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

## 9 OFFICER REPORTS

### 9.1 2025 DARWIN SISTER CITY AWARD - STORYTELLING COMPETITION UPDATE

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC002/25

Moved: General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy

Seconded: Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley

1. THAT the report entitled 2025 Darwin Sister City Award - Storytelling Competition Update be received and noted.
2. THAT the International Advisory Committee members promote the competition to its network and encourage submission before the closing date of 17 March 2025.

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 9.2 DARWIN FUSION 2025

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC003/25

Moved: Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

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

1. THAT the report entitled Darwin Fusion 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee members promote Darwin Fusion 2025 events opportunities to their networks and participate in the Darwin Fusion 2025.

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 9.3 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN UPDATE

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC004/25

Moved: Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley

Seconded: Deputy General Manager, Tourism Top End Jason Yule

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

**CARRIED 8/0**

#### ACTION REQUIRED

- Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan to talk to the CEO of Football Australia during her meeting in Sydney

**9.4 UPDATE ON FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF HO CHI MINH****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC005/25**

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

Seconded: Director of CDU Global, Charles Darwin University Adam Lam

THAT the report entitled Update on Friendship City proposal with the City of Ho Chi Minh be received and noted.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**10 MEMBER REPORTS****10.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC006/25**

Moved: Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley

Seconded: Director of Global, Charles Darwin University Adam Lam

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.

**CARRIED 8/0**

Charles Darwin University, Adam Lam

- Students from Papua New Guinea arrived in February to participate in a training program for early childhood teachers
- Plans for a training program with Indonesia and Timor-Leste is in its planning phase and involves the CDU Darwin campus
- Vice Chancellor Shannon Holborn is currently in London negotiating for interested students to come to Darwin to take part in an intensive post-graduate study program

Sister City Advisory Committee, Kate Heelan

- Signed MOU with GTNT and Bali Business School resulting from the Lord Mayor leading the delegation to Bali in 2022
- Thanked the Manager International Relations and Sponsorship, Cherry Cai, before going on her maternity leave, for all that she has done for the Sister City and International Relations Advisory Committees

Tourism Top End, Jason Yule

- Air Asia will launch a new direct flight service from Darwin to Kuala Lumpur commencing in late June
- Jetstar likewise has plans to start flights from Darwin
- These flights will further strengthen connections with Bali and other neighbouring Asian countries and bring in tourists

City of Darwin, Alice Percy

- Greater Darwin brand story is now finished and will be announced on social media soon

**Port of Darwin, Ben Cheng**

- Queen Annie cruise ship arrived and there was high praise for the bus tour drivers from the tourists
- Mineral investors from China are scheduled to arrive and should ramp up production for solar panels
- Professional logistics team from Hong Kong are coming to check equipment and port capacity as well as possible investors within the mineral sectors from China and Singapore

**Chamber of Commerce NT, Glen Hingley**

- Chamber of Commerce NT is still without a CEO and has been appointed as interim General Manager. The board are acting as the CEO
- Currently undergoing a strategic and operational review
- Members and engagement with members in the Northern Territory has increased
- A lot of conferences and events occurring:
  - AI partnership event with NBN and Microsoft
  - Workforce event for local applicants/job seekers to connect them with potential employers
  - Delegations from the Chamber representing Darwin in the Energy Exchange Conference in Perth

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

- Drew Boekel has left Darwin and is now in Canberra; however, he is still contactable and working remote
- Clarified protocols with the Lord Mayor's office for international delegations and consular visits
- Working with Ambon and Dili for visits in July 2025
- Embassy of Dili will sponsor and host a business conference with representatives from NTIBN and Larrakia Nation in August 2025
- Thanked the Manager International Relations and Sponsorship, Cherry Cai, for all the support provided as well as to Kate Heelan and Glen Hingley for working closely with DFAT in terms of interest, trade and investment in the territory

**11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**12 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:

**17.1 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.

**13 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC007/25**

Moved: Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley

Seconded: Director of Global, Charles Darwin University Adam Lam

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 11:47 am

**CARRIED 8/0**

**The Meeting closed at 11.47 am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 18 June 2025.**

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**CHAIR**