



AGENDA

International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 12 March 2025

**I hereby give notice that an International Relations Advisory Committee
Meeting will be held on:**

Date: Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Time: 11:00 AM

**Location: Council Chambers Darrandirra
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin**

**Simone Saunders
Chief Executive Officer**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis (Chair)

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

General Manager, Tourism Top End Samantha Bennett

Executive Director, Port of Darwin Ben Cheng

Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee Kate Heelan

Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University Shannon Holborn

CEO, Chamber of Commerce NT Greg Ireland

General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy

CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

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

Alternate Councillor Mick Palmer

OFFICERS

Emma Struys, Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Cherry Cai, Manager of International Relations and Sponsorship

GUEST

Ms Pompea Sweet, Senior Director, Strategy Policy – Migration & Population, Northern Territory Government

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1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

3.2 Leave of Absence

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

4.1 Electronic Attendance

4.2 Electronic Attendance Notified

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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International Relations Advisory Committee - 27 November 2024

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9.1 2025 DARWIN SISTER CITY AWARD - STORYTELLING COMPETITION UPDATE

Author: Manager of Economic Development and International Relations

Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Attachments: 1. Event Poster [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

BACKGROUND

The Darwin Sister City Award – Storytelling Competition celebrates everything you love about photography, poetry and short film.

Hosted by City of Darwin, Australia, the Darwin Sister City Award – Storytelling Competition (the Competition) is open to amateur and professional photographers, poets and film producers from Darwin and its seven sister cities. This Competition likewise offers cash prizes and a Mayoral Certificate to the winners.

Storytelling is the heart of the Competition, which aims to feature images created by entrants from our sister cities, sharing visions that inspire, inform, and awe. The competition is open for submissions and entries and closes on Monday, 17 March 2025.

It is a competition for the best photo, English poem and a short film/video byte (1-2 mins) from Darwin and Sister Cities which will be featured on the website and shared through Darwin and its seven Sister Cities.

Three categories are open for applications, including photography, English poem and very short film. For more information on this program, go to [2025 Darwin Sister City Award – Storytelling Competition | Discover Darwin](#).

SUBMISSION UPDATE

Up until the report writing date on 3 March 2025, City of Darwin received the following submissions:

- Short film: 0
- English Poem: 4
- Photography: 12

ACTION

City of Darwin would really appreciate your help to share the below social media and poster in **Attachment 1**, to your network and invite people to participate in the Competition:

LinkedIn

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/discover-darwin-australia_2025-darwin-sister-city-award-storytelling-activity-7299997069774073857-Cb8E?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAACdW9JcBG6T-c79ZeBzc554Qcl-3YO5QAjl

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15S1YdxHLh/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DGt5XYfthx1/?igsh=MTBmZHA3empwY2Vtdg==>



Photo by: Georgia Politis

SCAN ME



DARWIN SISTER CITY AWARD - STORYTELLING COMPETITION 2025

The Storytelling Competition celebrates everything you love about photography, poems and short films.

- The competition is open to amateur and professional photographers/poets/film producers from Darwin and its seven sister cities.
- Darwin and our sister cities are encouraged to share their best photo, English poem or short film/video (1-2mins only).
- Three categories are open for submissions, photography, English poem and very short film.
- Winners of the best photo, poem and short film/video will be featured on our website and shared with audiences from Darwin and our seven Sister Cities.
- The competition closes on Monday 17 March 2025.

**For more information or to submit an entry,
scan the QR code or visit:
discover.darwin.nt.gov.au/storytelling-competition**



9.2 DARWIN FUSION 2025

Author: Manager of Economic Development and International Relations

Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Attachments: 1. Sponsorship Prospectus [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

BACKGROUND**Darwin Fusion 2025**

Darwin Fusion 2025 is a two-day program from 22 to 23 May 2025. The program includes the following:

- Delegate Saltwater Welcome Ceremony at 6:00 pm, on 21 May 2025 at Waterfront Lagoon
- 2025 International Relations Conference at 9am, on 22 May 2025 at DoubleTree Hotel
- Business Networking Cocktail at 7pm, on 22 May 2025 at DoubleTree Hotel, and
- 2025 Darwin International Trade Show at 9am, on 23 May 2025 at DoubleTree Hotel
- Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations VIP reception at the Parliament House from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm on 23 May 2025, and
- the Garramilla Food Fair at 5:00 pm, on 23 May 2025 at the Esplanade.

Parts of the program are open to local, interstate, and international participants and we hope to provide a remarkable experience for all attendees during the program.

2025 International Relations Conference

The first day of the program incorporates the 2025 International Relations Conference, which will be hosted at the Double Tree by Hilton Esplanade on Thursday, 22 May 2025.

The conference brings together international, national and local policy makers, academic and industry experts and businesses, and civic leaders to share and discuss the challenges, benefits and opportunities for Sister Cities frameworks and relationships.

2025 Darwin International Trade Show

The second day of the program is focused on the 2025 Darwin International Trade Show. The program will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Esplanade on Friday, 23 May 2025.

The Trade Show presents an opportunity for businesses to connect with local and international customers and each other to strengthen trade and investment opportunities.

This will be an in-person event, connecting local, interstate tourism and economic agencies and Darwin's international networks to further explore trade opportunities.

Garramilla Food Fair

Hosted in partnership with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, the Garramilla Food Fair incorporates food stalls and performances to demonstrate and promote Darwin's rich culture and heritage of the First Nations.

The event further provides an opportunity to share Larrakia and first nations culture as well as showcase our multicultural community groups, organisations, and individuals to share their food, engage with attendees and promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Larrakia people and diverse community of Darwin.

For more information on this event, go to [2025 Darwin Fusion | Discover Darwin](#).

REGISTRATION UPDATE

As of 3 March 2025, the following number of registrations has been secured for the Darwin Fusion 2025:

- International business delegations:
 - around 50 registrations from Ambon, Denpasar, Dili, Saumlaki in Tanimbar Island Regency, and Sri Lanka
- Government delegation
- Trade Show stall registration: 43/60
- Food stalls registration: 9/20
- Performances EOI: 6/10
- Ambassadors and Consul Generals from India, Timor - Leste, Viet Nam and Ecuador

SPONSORSHIP

City of Darwin created the Sponsorship Prospectus for the stakeholders to be involved in the Darwin Fusion 2025 as per **Attachment 1**.

International Relations Advisory Committee members are welcome and encouraged to consider sponsoring the Darwin Fusion 2025 with different tiers of sponsorship type and benefits identified in the prospectus.

As of 3 March 2025, the following number of sponsorships/grants has been secured for the Darwin Fusion 2025:

- Business Networking Cocktail co-hosted and funded by Minister for Trade, Business, and Asian Relations
- \$5,000 cash from Charles Darwin University
- \$5,000 cash + \$5,000 in-kind from City of Hobart
- \$1,500 in-kind to provide bins at the Food Fair from Veolia, and
- \$10,000 grant from Sister Cities Australia.

City of Darwin applied for the below grants but was not successful:

- NT Major Events Company – Event funding program
- Joint application with Larrakia Nation to the Australian Government Community Grants Hub, Multicultural Grassroots Initiatives - Multicultural Celebrations Grant Opportunity, and
- the ASEAN-Australia Centre's 2024-25 Grants Program.



Sponsorship Prospectus

Darwin Fusion 2025



darwin.nt.gov.au



Event brief

2025 Darwin Fusion is a two-day program from 22 to 23 May 2025. The program includes the 2025 International Relations Conference, the 2025 Darwin International Trade Show, and the Garramilla Food Fair. The program is open to local, interstate, and international participants.

2025 International Relations Conference

The first day of the program incorporates the 2025 International Relations Conference. Hosted at the DoubleTree Hotel on Thursday, 22 May 2025, the conference brings together international, national and local policymakers, academic and industry experts, and businesses and civic leaders to share and discuss the challenges, benefits and opportunities Sister Cities frameworks and relationships bring.

2025 Darwin International Trade Show

The second day of the program includes the 2025 Darwin International Trade Show. The program will be held at DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade on Friday, 23 May 2025. The Trade Show presents an opportunity for businesses to connect with local and international customers and vendees. This will be an in-person event, connecting local, interstate tourism and economic agencies and Darwin's international networks to further explore trade opportunities.

Garramilla Food Fair

Hosted in partnership with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, the Garramilla Food Fair incorporates food stalls, and performances to demonstrate promote Darwin's rich culture and heritage of the First Nations.

Hosted in the afternoon of the second day, the event provides an opportunity for Larrakia and multicultural community groups, organisations, and individuals to share their food, engage with attendees and promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of Larrakia people and diverse community of Darwin.



Sponsorship Options

Sponsors will be our valuable partners and will contribute greatly to the success of the Darwin Fusion 2025.

The sponsorship package options are limited to ensure maximum exposure for our partners.

Sponsorship types include:

- Event partner
- Diamond
- Gold
- Silver
- Bronze

Packages can also be tailored to suit organisational needs and may incorporate new and innovative ideas specific to your organisation which will enhance and add value to the City of Darwin's Strategic Directions.

Event partner - \$10,000

- Express/VIP registration or seating if appropriate
- Logo recognition in all event print marketing collateral
- Speech acknowledgement
- Speech Opportunity
- Partnership session at the Conference if applicable
- Logo recognition in all events and digital marketing material
- Logo with an embedded link to the company page on the website
- Opportunity to display/signage banner at the event venue
- A social media post acknowledgment on the City of Darwin media channels
- Full page Ad space in the event program
- Logo with an embedded link to company page on the website
- Opportunity to provide approved branded promotional items

Diamond - \$8,000

- Logo recognition in all event print marketing collaterals
- Speech acknowledgement
- Partnership session at the Conference if applicable
- Opportunity to provide approved branded promotional items
- Opportunity to display/signage a banner at the event venue
- A social media post acknowledgment on City of Darwin media channels
- Logo recognition in all events digital marketing material
- Logo with an embedded link to company page on the website
- Ad space in the event program

Gold - \$5,000

- Opportunity to provide approved branded promotional items
- Partnership session at the Conference if applicable



- Opportunity to display/signage a banner at the event venue
- A social media post acknowledgment on City of Darwin media channels
- Logo recognition in all events digital marketing material
- Logo with an embedded link to company page on the website
- Ad space in the event program

Silver – \$3,000

- Opportunity to display/signage a banner at the event venue – on function only
- A social media post acknowledgment on City of Darwin media channels
- Logo recognition in all events digital marketing material
- Logo with an embedded link to company page
- Ad space in the event program

Bronze – \$1,500

- Logo recognition in all events digital marketing material
- Acknowledgment through public thanks during the event – one function only.
- Opportunity to display/signage a banner at the event venue – one function only

Opportunities	Event partner \$10,000	Diamond \$8,000	Gold \$5,000	Silver \$3,000	Bronze \$1,500
Number of sponsorships available	3	3	2	2	2
Speech Opportunity	✓				
Express/VIP registration or seating if appropriate	✓				
Speech acknowledgement	✓	✓			
Partnership session	✓	✓	✓		
Logo recognition in all event print marketing collaterals	✓	✓			
Opportunity to provide approved branded promotional items	✓	✓	✓		
Opportunity to display/signage a banner at the event venue	✓	✓	✓	✓	For one function



A social media post acknowledgment on City of Darwin media channels	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Logo recognition in all events digital marketing material	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo with an embedded link to company page	✓	✓	✓	✓	Acknowledgment through public thanks during the event – one function only.
Ad space	One page	Half page	100 words	logo	

Additional Opportunities

The additional opportunities are outlined below, and the level of investment or in-kind will determine the level of sponsorship attributed and the benefits offered.

Opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Marketing and promotion support
- Design
- Prizes
- Giveaways

Contact City of Darwin to find out more and discuss a package tailored to your needs sponsorship@darwin.nt.gov.au or 8930 0300

9.3 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Author: Manager of Economic Development and International Relations
Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

BACKGROUND

The Sister Cities Action Plan 2024-2026 endorsed by Council on 27 August 2024 is an updated and active, two-year implementation plan which was developed to ensure alignment with strategic objectives and are well established for projects or initiatives. The current Action Plan follows on from the previous Sister Cities Action Plan 2023-2024.

The purpose of the Action Plan is to:

- identify initiatives collectively
- gain formal budgetary approvals to facilitate the implementation of initiatives or projects
- establish and coordinate key success indicators in place, and
- measure progress and delivery.

ACTIONS UPDATE

Item	Tasks/ Projects Scope/Deliverables	Timeframe	Status
1	Support and deliver the 2025 Darwin Fusion	FY 2024/25	As per separate report
2	Darwin Welcome Pack for New businesses	FY 2024/25	Not started
3	Develop metrics to measure and report on the Sister City relationship activities	FY 2024/25	Completed in the SCAC Action Plan and PMP for each project
4	2025 International Women's Day Walk participation	FY 2024/25	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date and participation plan confirmed. • Invite sent out to the SSAC
5	2024 Darwin Sister City Committee Christmas Walk and sponsorship for the community representing the Sister City countries to make a float or walk based on the request	FY 2024/25	Completed

Item	Tasks/ Projects Scope/Deliverables	Timeframe	Status
6	2025 Darwin Ambon Yacht Rally or similar event hosted in Darwin	FY 2024/25	2025 Darwin Ambon Yacht Rally is not going ahead and seeking to carry forward the action and budget from City of Darwin to 2026 Darwin Ambon Yacht Rally.
7	2025 Darwin Dili Yacht Rally	FY 2024/25	Ongoing
8	<p>2025 Darwin Sister City Award – Storytelling Competition</p> <p>A competition for the best photo, poem and film from Darwin and Sister Cities to be featured on the website and shared through Darwin and international networks.</p>	FY 2024/25	<p>As per separate report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition is closing on 17 March 2025, looking to increase applications over the next few weeks.
9	<p>Darwin and Sister Cities' marketing & promotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote Darwin and Darwin's Sister Cities programs via the Discover Darwin LinkedIn and Website 	FY 2024/25	Ongoing - Discover Darwin LinkedIn
10	Darwin Sister Cities Soiree	August 2025	<p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU with Darwin Festival signed
11	Darwin Sister City Cup 2026	12 – 13 April 2026	<p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding application Partnership secure

9.4 UPDATE ON FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF HO CHI MINH

Author: Manager International Business Relations
Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Friendship City proposal with City of Ho Chi Minh.

BACKGROUND

Council resolved on 15 August 2023 for City of Darwin officers to pursue a Friendship City relationship with Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

UPDATE

Ho Chi Minh City is invited by City of Darwin to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Friendship City Relationship between City of Darwin and Ho Chi Minh (the MoU) at the Darwin Fusion 2025 hosted by City of Darwin from 22 – 23 May 2025.

Ho Chi Minh City is currently working through their internal approval processes and anticipate that they will have confirmation in April this year for the signing of the MoU with Darwin at the Darwin Fusion 2025.

Further, Ho Chi Minh City is likewise organising a delegation to participate in the Darwin International Trade Show, part of the Darwin Fusion 2025.

NEXT STEP

Subject to the approval from the Ho Chi Minh, next step is to formalise the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Ho Chi Minh at the Darwin Fusion 2025.

10 MEMBER REPORTS**10.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATE**

Author: Manager of Economic Development and International Relations

Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 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*:

16.1 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.



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

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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
 - 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

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 11:52 am.

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

.....
CHAIR