



AGENDA

International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 18 June 2025

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

Date: Wednesday, 18 June 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

Interim General Manager, Chamber of Commerce NT Glen Hingley

General Manager Innovation, City of Darwin Alice Percy

CEO, Larrakia Nation Michael Rotumah

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

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

Alternate Councillor Mick Palmer

OFFICERS

Emma Struys, Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Vanya Bosiocic, Manager Economic Development

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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

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

International Relations Advisory Committee - 12 March 2025

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM Previous Minutes

8 PRESENTATIONS

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2024-2026

Author: Manager Economic Development
Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The Chair of the International Relations Advisory Committee welcomes the newest member of the 2024 – 2026 International Relations Advisory Committee:

NAME	CURRENT POSITION	COMMITTEE POSITION
Ms Hayley Richards	Chief Executive Officer Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations	Ordinary Member

9.2 2025 DARWIN FUSION UPDATE

Author: Manager Economic Development
Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

BACKGROUND**Darwin Fusion 2025**

Darwin Fusion, held on the 22 to 23 May 2025, was a two-day program that celebrated and promoted the important role that local government and Sister and Friendship City partnerships have in increasing business, trade, investment and people-to-people links between Darwin and our international partners.

The program included:

- Delegate Saltwater Welcome Ceremony at 6:00 pm, on 21 May 2025 at Waterfront Lagoon
- 2025 International Relations Conference from 9am to 4:30pm on 22 May 2025 at DoubleTree Hilton on The Esplanade.
- Networking Dinner from 7pm on 22 May 2025 at DoubleTree Hilton on The Esplanade.
- 2025 Darwin International Trade Show from 9am to 1:30pm on 23 May 2025 at DoubleTree Hilton on The Esplanade.
- Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations VIP reception at the Parliament House from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm on 23 May 2025.
- Garramilla International Food Fair from 5pm on 23 May 2025 at Bicentennial Park, The Esplanade.

The Trade Show and Food Fair were open to the public and promoted across Northern Territory media and City of Darwin and Discover Darwin web pages and social media channels. The Conference and Networking Dinner were invite-only events for local, interstate, and international delegates.

EVENT BRIEFING**2025 International Relations Conference**

The conference was attended by over 140 international, interstate and local delegates, including:

- Ambassadors of China, Vietnam, Greece, and the High Commissioner of India and their diplomatic staff
- Consul General of Timor Leste

- Consul and Head of Post of the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Darwin and their diplomatic staff
- Lord Mayors and Mayors
- City of Darwin Elected Members
- Members of Parliament
- international government, business, industry, educational and academic representatives, and
- community organisations, including from Ambon, Indonesia; Denpasar, Indonesia; Dili, Timor-Leste; Guangzhou, China; Ho Chi Minh, China; Saumlaki, Indonesia.

The conference had keynote addresses from the following dignitaries:

- Ambassador of China
- Ambassador of Greece
- Ambassador of Vietnam
- the High Commissioner of India
- Consul General of Timor Leste, and
- Consul and Head of Post of the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Darwin.

Each speaker presented on the importance of international partnerships in growing trade and investment between our respective regions; and the value that local governments and Sister/Friendship Cities have in the development of such relations.

There was a breakout session at the conference, where delegates engaged in meaningful dialogues and knowledge sharing regarding the benefits and opportunities of international and Sister City frameworks.

Some of the most engaging topics included:

- building meaningful international relationships between Sister Cities
- measuring the value of international city relationships, arts and cultural exchange
- transitioning to commercial businesses
- sharing knowledge and expertise in alternative energy and transition to low/zero/carbon positive industries, and
- fostering continual improvement and innovation between Sister Cities.

The Lord Mayor also had one-on-one meetings with the Ambassador of China, Ambassador of Vietnam, Ambassador of Greece and High Commissioner for India, where they discussed opportunities to broaden and strengthen Darwin's trade and investment opportunities through our local government, Sister and Friendship City partnerships.

The conference received local and international news coverage, including 500 million views across 190 countries and territories for Phoenix Satellite TV.



2025 Darwin International Trade Show

The second day of the program focused on the 2025 Darwin International Trade Show. Over 50 stalls showcased products and services across tourism, hospitality, arts and culture, whole-sale and retail trade, training and education, scientific, migration, human resources, non-for profit, manufacturing, information technology and agriculture.

The Trade Show facilitated business-to-business connection and business and industry promotion between local and international product and service providers and customers, to strengthen trade and investment opportunities.





Garramilla International Food Fair

Hosted in partnership with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, the Garramilla International Food Fair was attended by over 1,500 interstate, international and local community members.

Thirteen food stalls participated in the Food Fair, showcasing the diversity of Darwin's multicultural cuisine. Additionally, there was 12 cultural performances from local and international cultural and community groups that promoted our strong international ties, our multicultural community groups and organisations, and demonstrated the rich culture and heritage of Larrakia and First Nations Peoples. Attendees had the opportunity to engage and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Larrakia people and Darwin's multicultural identity.





EARLY MODELLING OF ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

City of Darwin has completed early economic modelling, using REMPLAN, to evaluate the flow on economic benefits that Darwin Fusion has already had on Darwin's economy.

Early evaluation shows that for every dollar spent on the event, \$4.16 was added to Darwin's Gross Regional Product.

Based on City of Darwin's investment, \$7.9 was generated in the Darwin economy for every dollar invested.

9.3 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Author: Manager Economic Development
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	Completed, refer to 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	Delivered for 24/25. Planned for 25/26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date and participation plan confirmed. • Invite sent out to the SSAC

Item	Tasks/ Projects Scope/Deliverables	Timeframe	Status
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
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 for next FY 25/26 in order to support the 2026 Darwin Ambon Yacht Rally.
7	2025 Darwin Dili Yacht Rally	FY 2024/25	Agreement being established. Event planned for July.
8	2025 Darwin Sister City Award – Storytelling Competition 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.	FY 2024/25	Currently undertaking assessment processes.
9	Darwin and Sister Cities' marketing & promotion <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. Looking to draft content for next FY along with next International Update due for send out in July.
10	Darwin Sister Cities Soiree	August 2025	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU with Darwin Festival signed
11	Darwin Sister City Cup 2026	12 – 13 April 2026	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding application made and another to be pursued. Partnership secured

10 MEMBER REPORTS**10.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES**

Author: Manager Economic Development

Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

11 GENERAL BUSINESS**12 Closure of Meeting to the Public****RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 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.



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

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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:

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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