

Agenda

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting

I hereby give notice that a Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 15 October 2025
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Council Chambers Darrandirra
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Simone Saunders

Chief Executive Officer



SISTER CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Kate Heelan

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Committee Member Nerida Hart

Committee Member Chyntia Elsinta Indrawati

Committee Member Siji Issac

Committee Member Stephanie Lin

Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

Committee Member Paddy Mohan

Committee Member Ninik Stroud

Committee Member Allan Woo

OFFICERS

Emma Struys, Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Vanya Bosiocic, Manager Economic Development

Jessica Fry, Manager International Relations and Sponsorship

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

3.2 Leave of Absence Granted

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 Electronic Attendance Granted

4.2 Electronic Attendance Requested

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting - 25 June 2025

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential

7.2 Moving of Confidential Items into Open

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 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 developed to ensure there is project and initiative alignment with strategic objectives. 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
- 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
2	Darwin Welcome Pack for New businesses	FY 2025/26	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 2025/26	Delivered for 24/25. In planning process for 25/26

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 2025/26	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. Carry forward of funds approved.
7	2025 Darwin Dili Yacht Rally	FY 2024/25	Completed.
8	2025 Darwin Sister City Award – Storytelling Competition.	FY 2024/25	Completed.
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 2025/26	Ongoing - Discover Darwin LinkedIn. Content for next FY is being drafted.
10	Darwin Sister Cities Soiree	August 2025	Completed.
11	Darwin Sister City Cup 2026	12 – 13 April 2026	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding application submitted to National Foundation for Australia-China Relations 2025-26 – awaiting outcome Partnership secured with Football NT

9.2 SISTER CITY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Author: Manager Economic Development

Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report Sister City Committee Member be received and noted.
1. THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee receive the resignation and appreciates the contribution and generous support from Sam Kansal as a member of Sister City Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

Mr Sam Kansal, Committee Member of City of Darwin's Sister City Advisory Committee, has advised that he has resigned as a committee member, effective immediately. Mr Kansal advised of his resignation to the Manager of International Relations and Sponsorships in writing on 6 March 2025, and confirmed verbally to City of Darwin officers on Monday 7 July 2025.

9.3 2025 SISTER CITIES STORYTELLING COMPETITION UPDATE

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled 2025 Sister Cities Storytelling Competition Update be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the recently concluded 2025 Sister City Awards - Storytelling Competition.

BACKGROUND

The Darwin Sister City Awards – Storytelling Competition returned in 2025 after a successful activation the previous year, with two new categories – Poetry and Film.

- Storytelling is at the heart of the Competition, which aims to feature images created by entrants from Darwin's Sister Cities, with the aim to share visions that connect, inspire, inform, and create awe.
- The theme for this year's 'Darwin Sister City Awards - Storytelling Competition' aimed to inspire creativity amongst Darwin's seven Sister Cities and the unique bond shared with Darwin.
- The competition was open to amateur and professional photographers, poets and film producers, running from December 2024 – March 2025.
- City of Darwin received 69 eligible submissions across the four categories.
- Entries were submitted from Darwin's Sister Cities, Ambon, Denpasar, Dili, Haikou and locally here in Darwin.

COMPETITION OUTCOME BRIEFING

Entries were submitted across Darwin and our Sister Cities: Ambon, Denpasar, Dili, and Haikou.

Submissions from each Sister City:

- Haikou – 52%
- Denpasar – 20%
- Darwin – 15%
- Ambon – 9%
- Dili – 4%

The submissions per category were broken down into the following categories:

- Photo – Landscape – 42%
- Photo – People – 28%
- Poetry – 26%
- Short Film – 4%

The Grand Prize Winners for each category included:

Photography – Landscape: Zhonghua Shi, Haikou

Description: Mr Shi describes his photo as capturing Haikou Bay's unique and adapted conditions and ecological features which have become a landmark for citizens and tourists to relax, play, dine, and shop.



Photography – People: Ni Putu Bunga Kaniska Sanubari, Denpasar

Description: This portrait depicts a couple dressed in traditional Balinese songket and endek weaving, with the artist explaining that it symbolises the King and Queen of Denpasar, united in love and tradition.



Grand Prize – Poetry: Chengan Tang, Haikou

Description: This engaging poem stood out as having a unique theme and approach, juxtaposing Haiku and Darwin's natural ecology with that of technological development.

Sister Ports: Binary Code of Tides

At 20°N and 12°S,
two ports hum in mirrored syntax—
Haikou's docks parse monsoon data,
Darwin's terminals decrypt dry winds.

We splice our latitudes with fiber-optic kelp,
submarine cables thrumming coral algorithms:
your mangrove roots compile silt into firewalls,
my volcanic bedrock hosts cloud archives.

Cranes stack containers like coral polyps,
steel reefs blooming in shared currents—
your saltwater crocodiles blink with satellite tags,
my coconut palms broadcast Wi-Fi pollen.

At dawn, your frigatebirds ping my skyscrapers,
encrypted nests in glass spires;
by dusk, my fishing fleets stream live coordinates,
pulsing through Darwin's arterial bays.

We speak in hybrid glyphs:
boiling tea steams with outback dust,
didgeridoo vibrations tessellate Qiong opera scales—
fireworks detonate twin auroras over the Arafura Sea.

Sister cities don't weep—we debug typhoons,
rebooting horizons when cyclones glitch the code.

Tides rise as executable waves,
compiling moonlit .exe into dawn's silent shore.

Grand Prize – Short Film: Putu Bagus Windhi Santika, Denpasar

Description: The talented film maker provides a beautiful depiction of Darwin and Denpasar's cultural and community connections through the story of a young Denpasar student who is grappling with the emotional turmoil of leaving her home and family in Denpasar to travel to Darwin to study.

<https://youtu.be/i-4A6p4vZCg>

The overall winners for each category are listed below:

Photo - Landscape			
Prize	Name	Prize Money	Location
Grand Prize 1	Zhonghua Shi	\$1,000	Haikou
Excellence Award 1	Jingyu Wang	\$600	Haikou
Excellence Award 2	Denglin Kang	\$600	Haikou
Special Encouragement 1	Siji Chen	\$400	Haikou
Photo - People			
Prize	Name	Prize Money	Location
Grand Prize 2	Ni Putu Bunga Kaniska Sanubari	\$1,000	Denpasar
Excellence Award 3	Rano Manina	\$600	Ambon
Excellence Award 4	Siming Yi	\$600	Haikou
Special Encouragement 2	Kadek Yuni Dharma Patni	\$400	Denpasar

Poetry Competition			
Prize	Name	Prize Money	Location
Grand Prize 1	Chenghan Tang	\$800	Haikou
Excellence Award 1	Stephen Van Der Mark	\$500	Darwin
Special Encouragement 1	Baofan Guo	\$300	Haikou
Special Encouragement 2	Jaime-lee Sheppard	\$300	Darwin
Short Film Competition			
Prize	Name	Prize Money	Location
Grand Prize 1	Putu Bagus Windhi Santika	\$1,200	Denpasar
Excellence Award 1	iSee Undiknas	\$800	Denpasar
Special Encouragement 1	Suparta Yasa	\$400	Denpasar

In addition to the cash prizes, each winner was sent an official Mayoral Certificate.

Grand prize winners were acknowledged via the Discover Darwin website and at a formal ceremony during the Darwin Festival – City of Darwin's Sister Cities Soiree event.

City of Darwin would like to acknowledge and thank the following competition judges:

Photography Category

- Kate Heelan, Chair of Darwin City Council's Sister City Advisory Committee
- Michael Walker, President of Australian Photographic Judges Association
- Lindsay Murihead, Member of the Australian Photographic Judges Association

Poetry Category

- Jessica Lightowler, Library & Archives NT
- Hannah Illingworth, Director Darwin Fringe Festival
- Nerida Hart, Committee member, Darwin City Council's Sister City Advisory Committee

Short Film

- James Parker General Manager, Deckchair Cinema
- Paddy Mohan, Committee member, Darwin City Council's Sister City Advisory Committee

9.4 SISTER CITIES SOIREE

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Sister Cities Soiree be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Sister Cities Soiree Event

BACKGROUND

Darwin Sister Cities Soiree was held on Saturday 16 August 2025 as part of the Darwin Festival 2025.

- The event included a Sister City themed trivia game, performances from local cultural groups representing Darwin's Sister Cities and the presentation of the Grand Final winners of the 'Darwin Sister City Award – Storytelling Competition 2025'.
- The Sister Cities Soiree was an action within the 2024-2026 Sister Cities Action Plan endorsed by Council for delivery.

DISCUSSION

Darwin Sister Cities Soiree was an action under the City of Darwin's Sister Cities Action Plan 2024-2026. The event achieved its objective of promoting Darwin's international relations program and celebrating the Sister Cities culture with the Darwin community during the Darwin Festival through food, performances and live music.

The event was held on Saturday 16 August 2025 as part of the Darwin Festival. It was delivered through a partnership agreement between City of Darwin and the Darwin Festival. The program included five cultural performances, trivia game (focused on education and promoting Darwin's Sister Cities), and the unveiling of the Grand Prize winners of the 'Darwin Sister City Awards – Storytelling Competition 2025'.

The event was attended widely by the public as part of the Darwin Festival Program at the Darwin Port Bandstand.

Performances from local Sister City representatives included:

- **Chung Wah Society Lion Dance** - Representing Haikou
- **Ngarukuruwala Group – Tiwi Islands** – Representing Milikapiti.
- **Tunas Mekar Culture Collective** – Representing Denpasar, Indonesia
- **Nisiotiko Ksefanfoma** – Representing Kalymnos, Greece

One of the award winner's that attended the Soiree with his wife and daughters commended the event and thanked the City of Darwin Teams for a lovely evening.



Chung Wah Society Lion Dance



Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris unveiling the Photography Grand Prize Winners.



Children enjoying the Ngarukuruwala Group – Tiwi Islands – Milikapiti performance.





Tunas Mekar Culture Collective - Denpasar, Indonesia performers.



Tunas Mekar Culture Collective - Denpasar, Indonesia performers.



Nisiotiko Ksefanfoma – Kalymnos performance

10 MEMBER REPORTS

11 GENERAL BUSINESS**11.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES**

Author: Events Producer

Authoriser: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

THAT the next Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting be held on Wednesday, 26 November 2025, at Council Chambers Darrandirra, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section).

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

14 CLOSURE/ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING



MINUTES

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Date: Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

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

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
SISTER CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2025 AT 5:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Chairperson Kate Heelan
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
Committee Member Nerida Hart
Committee Member Stephanie Lin
Committee Member Tony Miaoudis
Committee Member Ninik Stroud
Committee Member Allan Woo

OFFICERS:

Emma Struys, Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development
Vanya Bosiocic, Manager Economic Development

APOLOGY:

Committee Member Siji Issac
Committee Member Chyntia Elsinta Indrawati
Committee Member Paddy Mohan
Committee Member Sam Kansal

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1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:40 pm.

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

Committee Member Siji Issac

Committee Member Chyntia Elsinta Indrawati

Committee Member Paddy Mohan

Committee Member Sam Kansal

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 SCAC011/25

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

THAT the minutes of the Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS**9.1 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC012/25**

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

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

CARRIED 7/0**9.2 2025 DARWIN FUSION UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC013/25**

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Nerida Hart

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

CARRIED 7/0**9.3 UPDATE ON THE FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF KOCHI, INDIA.****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC014/25**

Moved: Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

Seconded: Committee Member Nerida Hart

THAT the report entitled Update on the Friendship City Proposal with the City of Kochi, India be received and noted.

CARRIED 7/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS

10.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC015/25

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Stephanie Lin

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

CARRIED 7/0

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

- Greek Glenti Festival was a success, which provided a lot of tourism opportunities to Darwin as well as multicultural festivities
- There is an opportunity for the Committee to be more actively involved and should look into participating in more events for the next Glenti Festival

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Committee Member Stephanie Lin informed the other members that Hainan province reached out to her to get the most appropriate contact for the group to make an enquiry. This has been actioned at the meeting, providing Stephanie with the International Relations' email address, international@darwin.nt.gov.au

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 52 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.

13 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC016/25**

Moved: Chairperson Kate Heelan

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the Chair declared the Open meeting closed at 6:27 pm.

CARRIED 7/0