



AGENDA

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 25 June 2025

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

Date: Wednesday, 25 June 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 Sam Kansal

Committee Member Stephanie Lin

Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

Committee Member Paddy Mohan

Committee Member Ninik Stroud

Committee Member Allan Woo

Lord Mayor (Alternate) Kon Vatskalis

OFFICERS

Emma Struys, Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development

Vanya Bosiocic, Manager Economic Development

Order Of Business

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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

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting - 5 March 2025

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM Previous Minutes

8 PRESENTATIONS

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 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. |

| Item | Tasks/ Projects Scope/Deliverables | Timeframe | Status |
|------|---|-------------|--|
| 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 |
| 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. Sponsorship has been paid. 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. • Team will begin programming in July. |

| Item | Tasks/ Projects Scope/Deliverables | Timeframe | Status |
|------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 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 |

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 and 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 9 am to 4:30 pm 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 9 am to 1:30 pm 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 5 pm 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:

- 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 and 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, wholesale and retail trade, training and education, scientific, migration, human resources, not-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.





9.3 UPDATE ON THE FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF KOCHI, INDIA.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

BACKGROUND

The Sister City Advisory Committee resolved at a Committee meeting on 11 February 2021 to recommend that City of Darwin engage with the local Indian community and business groups in identifying an opportunity for a Friendship City Relationship with a city in India.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present an update on the progress for the resolution to progress engagement with the City of Kochi towards the development of a Friendship City Relationship with City of Darwin.

KEY ISSUES

- In 2021, City of Darwin conducted community group engagement to identify opportunities and recommendations for an appropriate Friendship City candidate in India.
- City of Darwin engaged with the Darwin Malayalee Association who provided recommendation that the City of Kochi in India would be an appropriate candidate for consideration.
- The City of Kochi is a major port city on the south-west coast of India bordering the Laccadive Sea, a part of the Arabian Sea. The City of Kochi and its outer regions have a total population of approximately 3 million. Kochi is the Indian state of Kerala's financial, commercial and industrial capital, and one of the fastest-growing second-tier metro cities in India.
- The City has international trade connectivity via an international Airport and Port. Darwin and Kochi share similarities in their tropical climate, strategic positioning as trade hubs into Asia, and multicultural communities.
- Following initial discussions with the Darwin Malayalee Association and the City of Kochi Government, in July 2022 the Lord Mayor of Darwin sent a letter to then Mayor of Kochi Municipal Corporation, inviting Kochi Municipal Corporation to enter into a Friendship City relationship with Darwin. The letter highlighted partnership opportunities across education, economic and professional exchanges. However, progress on formalising a partnership stalled after 2022.
- In 2025, during Darwin Fusion's International Relations Conference, the Lord Mayor met with the High Commissioner for India where they discussed the opportunities to revitalise dialogue regarding the development of a Friendship Partnership between City of Darwin and City of Kochi.

- Following the meeting, the Lord Mayor received correspondence from Adv. M. Anil Kumar (Mayor, Kochi) Chairman, Centre for Heritage, Environment and Development to formally propose the establishment of a Sister City relationship between the City of Kochi and the City of Darwin.
- The Mayor of Kochi highlighted the below areas of cooperation:
 - Foster people-to-people links through cultural, educational, and youth exchange programs.
 - Support trade and investment between India and Northern Australia, especially in sectors like maritime logistics, renewable energy, and digital innovation.
 - Collaborate on urban policy, including climate resilience, coastal protection, smart city planning, and sustainable tourism.
 - Encourage institutional and academic partnerships between universities, research organisations, and training institutes.
 - Promote the creative arts, including festivals, traditional crafts, film, and food exchanges.
- In accordance with City of Darwin's international relations processes, we will seek to establish a Friendship City memorandum of understanding with the City of Kochi as a first step forward in our partnership.

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**

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 51 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* and Regulation 51 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021:

16.1 Members Verbal Updates

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

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 5 March 2025

Date: Wednesday, 5 March 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, 5 MARCH 2025 AT 5:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Chairperson Kate Heelan
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
Committee Member Nerida Hart
Committee Member Siji Issac
Committee Member Tony Miaoudis
Committee Member Paddy Mohan
Committee Member Allan Woo

OFFICERS:

Cherry Cai, Manager of International Relations and Sponsorship

APOLOGY:

Committee Member Chyntia Elsinta Indrawati
Committee Member Sam Kansal
Committee Member Stephanie Lin
Committee Member Ninik Stroud

Order of Business

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| 4 | Electronic Attendance | 4 |
| 5 | Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff | 4 |
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| 8 | Presentations | 5 |
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| 10 | Member Reports | 7 |
| 11 | General Business..... | 7 |
| 12 | Next Meeting | 7 |
| 13 | Closure of Meeting to the Public | 7 |
| 14 | Adjournment of Meeting..... | 8 |

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:31 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 Chyntia Elsinta Indrawati

Committee Member Sam Kansal

Committee Member Stephanie Lin

Committee Member Ninik Stroud

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 SCAC001/25

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Siji Issac

THAT the minutes of the Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS**9.1 MEETING DATE CHANGE REQUEST****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC002/25**

Moved: Committee Member Paddy Mohan

Seconded: Committee Member Nerida Hart

1. THAT the report entitled Meeting Date Change Request be received and noted.
2. THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee reschedule the meeting on Wednesday, 17 September 2025 at 5:30 pm to Wednesday, 15 October 2025 at 5:30 pm, due to Local Government elections.

CARRIED 7/0**9.2 2025 DARWIN SISTER CITY AWARD - STORYTELLING COMPETITION UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC003/25**

Moved: Committee Member Siji Issac

Seconded: Committee Member Paddy Mohan

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

CARRIED 7/0**9.3 DARWIN FUSION 2025****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC004/25**

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Siji Issac

1. THAT the report entitled Darwin Fusion 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee members promote Darwin Fusion 2025 to their networks and invite participation.
3. THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee members advise if they have any interest and availability to volunteer to support staff activities during the Darwin Fusion 2025 on 22 and 23 May 2025.

CARRIED 7/0

9.4 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN UPDATE**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC005/25**

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

9.5 NEW AIRLINE FOR DARWIN AND DENPASAR**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC006/25**

Moved: Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

Seconded: Committee Member Paddy Mohan

THAT the report entitled New Airline for Darwin and Denpasar be received and noted.

CARRIED 7/0

9.6 SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC007/25**

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

1. THAT the report entitled Sponsorship Proposal be received and noted.
2. THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee recommends City of Darwin provide \$800 or \$1,000 sponsorship to support the "Tais Culture & Resilience: Woven Stories" from Timor-Leste through the out-of-round sponsorship program using available budget.

CARRIED 7/0

9.7 TIMOR-LESTE AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2025**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC008/25**

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Nerida Hart

THAT the report entitled Timor-Leste Australia Economic and Business Conference 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED 7/0

9.8 SPONSORSHIP FOR 2025 SPICE ISLANDS DARWIN AMBON YACHT RACE**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC009/25**

Moved: Committee Member Allan Woo

Seconded: Committee Member Tony Miaoudis

1. THAT the report entitled Sponsorship for 2025 Spice Islands Darwin Ambon Yacht Race be received and noted.
2. THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee recommends City of Darwin to carry forward the action and budget to sponsor the 2026 Spice Islands Darwin Ambon Yacht Race.

CARRIED 7/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS

Nil

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 5:30pm

13 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 Kalymnos and Darwin Language Scholarship Program 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.

14 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC010/25

Moved: Committee Member Siji Issac

Seconded: Committee Member Paddy Mohan

THAT the Chair declared the Open meeting closed at 6.35pm.

CARRIED 7/0

Unconfirmed