

Civic Affiliations Policy

Objective

To guide elected members, staff and the community on the establishment and operation of civic affiliations such as sister cities and friendship agreements.

Policy Statements

Council desires to maintain a small number of active civic relationships based upon the benefits that may accrue, including trade, tourism, and cultural, educational and sporting activities.

Council considers that the abovementioned benefits can principally be achieved by facilitating:

- Trade, cultural, educational, tourism and sporting exchanges; and
- Periodic official visits.

(a) Level of Council Involvement: Council will foster its affiliations in the following ways:

- Subject to prior Council approval, one visit to each endorsed affiliate in every four year Mayoral term provided that the relationship is active and reciprocal.
- The composition of the delegation is subject to Council approval upon recommendation of the Mayor; and it will be led by the Mayor.
- Partners of delegates must travel at their own expense.
- Subject to CEO approval and sufficient provision in the budget, visiting officials of affiliated cities will be afforded reciprocal hospitality including accommodation, civic events and receptions and district tours and visits.

(b) Criteria for the Establishment of new Civic Affiliations: There must be tangible and sustainable benefits demonstrated in order for Council to commit to a new civic affiliation. These should include but not be limited to:

- Trade links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries where Australia has a free trade agreement or a proven trade record.
- Cultural links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries where Council determines that the City would benefit from a greater awareness and appreciation of that country's traditions and customs.
- Sporting links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries where Australia has existing sporting links through national sporting federations.
- Tourism links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries who are major sources of visitors to Australia or who provide a potential market for local tourism operators.
- Education links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries that have existing educational exchange programmes or who provide a potential market for local educational institutions.

(c) **Endorsed Civic Affiliations:** Council has five active affiliations to which it is a signatory, being:

- **Nichinan (Japan)** - A 'Synergetic & Friendship Agreements' based on the export of blue gum plantation woodchips was signed in 1998. The City of Albany, Albany Port Authority and Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry are joint signatories to this agreement. In 2010, in recognition of the ongoing important economic and cultural affiliation and exchanges the Synergetic Agreement was complimented by a Friendship Agreement.
- **Tomioka (Japan)** – A 'Friendship Agreement' based on a strong and continuing school student exchange program was signed in Albany on 1 February 2001 with a reciprocal signing ceremony in Tomioka in 2004.
- **Gallipoli (Turkey)** – A 'Friendship Agreement' based on Albany's ANZAC military heritage was signed in Albany on 25 April 2003 and reciprocated in Gallipoli on 25 April 2005.
- **Peronne (France)** - A 'Friendship Agreement' based on Albany's ANZAC military heritage was signed in Peronne on 1 November 2008.
- **Linyi (People's Republic of China)** – A "Friendly Co-Operative Relationship Agreement" was signed on the 16 July 2014, based on actively promoting economic and trade cooperation in accordance with the principles of mutual benefit in the fields of trade, investment, technology and environmental protection.

Scope

The policy relates to all forms of civic affiliations to which different names have been assigned. The agreements can be between cities or towns within Australia or overseas.

Legislative and Strategic Context

This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan:

- **Key Theme:** Smart, Prosperous & Growing
- **Strategic Objectives:**
 - To strengthen our region's economic base.
 - To develop and promote Albany as a unique and sought after visitor location.
- **Strategy:**
 - Strengthen our economy by supporting business innovation and diversity.
 - Promote the Albany region as a sought after and iconic tourism destination..

Review Position and Date

This policy and procedure is to be reviewed by the document owner every two years.

Definitions

Key terms and acronyms used in the policy, and their definitions:

- **Civic Affiliations:** A generic term used to describe any formal agreement between two cities to foster mutual exchange. It is sometimes referred to as a 'sister city', 'friendship agreement', a 'twinning' arrangement or a charter of mutual agreement.

Document Approval			
Document Development Officer:		Document Owners:	
Manager Governance & Risk (MGR)		Chief Executive Officer Executive Director Corporate Services	
Document Control			
File Number - Document Type:	CM.STD.7 – Policy		
Document Reference Number:	NP1766704		
Meta Data: Key Search Terms	Friendship Agreement, Sister City Agreement, Friendly Co-Operative Relationship		
Status of Document:	Council decision: Adopted and Reviewed.		
Quality Assurance:	Chief Executive Officer, Executive Management Team, Council Committee, and Council.		
Distribution:	Public Document		
Document Revision History			
Version	Author	Version Description	Date Completed
1.0	CEO	Adoption Ref: OCM 19/09/2006 Report Item 14.3.1.	19/09/2006
2.0	CEO	Review & Adoption Ref: OCM 21/10/2008 Report Item 12.8.2.	21/10/2008
3.0	CEO	Review & Adoption Ref: SCM 2/11/2010 Report Item 6.1	02/11/2010
4.0	MGR	Manager Governance & Risk (MGR). Reviewed and amended under delegated authority. Minor administrative amendments made: - Reference to Community Strategic Plan. - Review date amended to bi-annual. - Document revision history and version control added.	14/05/2014
5.0	MGR	Amended by Council. Reference: OCM 28/10/2014 Resolution ED017. Agreement between the City of Linyi, P.R. China and the City of Albany. NP061694_5.	28/10/2014
6.0	MGR	Review Ref: OCM 23/05/2017 Resolution CCCS028.	13/06/2017