



Council Policy

Civic Affiliations

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1. Objective

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

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Policy Statement

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

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

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

4.1 Level of Council Involvement

4.2 Council will foster its affiliations in the following ways:-

- 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, however it will be lead by the Mayor. Partners of delegates must travel at their own expense.
- Visiting officials of affiliated cities will be afforded reciprocal hospitality including accommodation, civic events and receptions and district tours and visits.

4.3 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

4.3 Endorsed Civic Affiliations

Council has three active affiliations to which it is a signatory, being:-

- Nichinan (Japan) - A 'Synergetic Agreement' based on the export of blue gum plantation woodchips was signed in 1998 with a reciprocal visit to Nichinan in 2000. The City of Albany, Albany Port Authority and Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry are joint signatories to this 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 visit by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO in 2004.
- Galipolli (Turkey) – A 'Friendship Agreement' based on Albany's Anzac military heritage was signed in Albany on 25 April 2003 and reciprocated in Galipolli on 25 April 2005.

4.4 Limit on number of Civic Affiliations

- The number of civic affiliations be limited to a total of four.

4.5 Review

- A review of each civic affiliation be conducted by Council every two years to assess the degree of activity, cost to Council and associated benefits for the City of Albany. (The first review to be undertaken in September 2009).

5. Legislative and Strategic Context

This policy directly relates to the City of Albany 3D Strategic Plan, which states the community's vision to establish Albany as a vibrant, learning, and culturally diverse City.

The policy will be reviewed in light of any future Western Australian and Australian Government foreign affairs and trade policies and directives.

6. Review Position and Date

Manager Economic Development to review on or before 19/09/2011

7. Associated Documents

Nil

CEO Authorisation: _____

Date: ___/___/_____