

1.11 Civic Affiliations Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Officer	Manager Governance & Risk
Date of Approval	01/07/2025
Amended/Revised	03/07/2025

Objective

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

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.

Policy Statements

The Council desires to maintain a small number of active civic relationships based on 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.

Level of Council Involvement

The 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 the 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.

Criteria for the Establishment of New Civic Affiliations

There must be tangible and sustainable benefits demonstrated for the Council to commit to a new civic affiliation. These should include but not be limited to:

- Trade links between the two countries; preference is 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 the 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 is given to cities in countries that are major sources of visitors to Australia or that provide a potential market for local tourism operators.
- Education links between the two countries; preference is given to cities in countries that have existing educational exchange programmes or that provide a potential market for local educational institutions.

Endorsed Civic Affiliations

The Council has the following 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 complemented 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.

**Amended OCM 24/09/2024 Resolution CCS660.*

Review Periods

Document to be reviewed annually by Council.

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.