



# **Sister City and Friendship Region Relationship Policy**

## POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide a structured and transparent framework for Goulburn Mulwaree's Council's relationship with its Sister Cities and Friendship Regions. The policy will establish Council's commitment to its Sister City and Friendship Regions relationships including the interactions required and where Council representatives are funded to make official visits to further cement the positive relationships with these cities and regions.

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

*Local Government Act 1993*

## POLICY STATEMENT

Council has entered into formal Sister City Relationships with Shibetsu City in Japan, Jiangdu in China and Wagin Shire Council in Western Australia. Council has friendship relationships with Quelicai in Timor Leste, Lang Son City in Vietnam, Kisoro in Uganda and Nalaikh in Mongolia.

A Sister City relationship can be defined as a formal agreement based on a high level of commitment to shared cultural, social and commercial goals. In pursuit of these shared goals, Council will:

- provide support for exchanges of art and cultural products between our libraries and galleries
- explore cooperation and exchange between local development agencies, chambers of commerce and tourism departments
- foster education and career prospects of our youth through exchange of knowledge and ideas
- cross promotion of tourism opportunities between the two communities
- explore the possibility of resource sharing
- provide opportunities for elected members and staff to learn from the sister city members
- promote economic development

Council will promote the relationship and where mutually required, provide opportunities for civic or business delegations on a regular basis.

Council will endeavour to make or receive at least one official visit to or from our Sister Cities in every term of Council.

Council will promote student exchanges with at least one of our Sister Cities on an annual basis.

Council will also make appropriate financial contributions toward air fares and accommodation for Council appointed delegates making an official visit to our Sister Cities. The amount of the financial contribution will be determined by Council resolution through the annual budgetary process. This will include financial contributions and formal Civic Receptions for departing and visiting students.

A Friendship Region relationship can be defined as a cooperative agreement, where a lesser level of engagement is proposed, and where any benefits do not necessarily reflect a Goulburn Mulwaree benefit but could form part of the community's desire to assist regions in the world that are not as advantaged as the Goulburn Mulwaree community.

Where Council is of the opinion that beneficial cultural, social or commercial outcomes can be achieved by having regular contact, the arrangement will occur with an exchange of letters.



## GOULBURN MULWAREE COUNCIL SISTER CITY AND FRIENDSHIP REGION RELATIONSHIP POLICY

Council will also give consideration to funding visits to and delegations from our friendship regions, which will be determined by Council resolution on a case by case basis. The consideration for financial assistance will only be towards air fares and accommodation.

Version	Council Meeting Date	Resolution	Adoption Date	Effective From
1	6 August 2019	15.5	24 September 2019	24 September 2019
2	4 October 2022	2022/362	4 October 2022	1 November 2022

**All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council at anytime.**

**DIRECTORATE:** Executive Services

**BUSINESS UNIT:** Executive Services