



Sister City and Friendship Region Relationship Policy

GOULBURN MULWAREE COUNCIL

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 (Council) 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 official visits to further cement the positive relationships with these cities and regions.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Local Government Act 1993

Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020

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 Shibetsu Council every five years corresponding with the 5-year milestones of signing the sister city agreement in 1999. All Council delegates that participate in any official visit do so at their cost.

Council will promote student exchanges with Shibetsu on an annual basis sharing us sending and hosting students. Council will provide a financial contribution towards air fares and accommodation for the students travelling to Japan as part of this exchange. Council will pay for the air fare and accommodation for the chaperone that travels with the students. Council also arranges 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.

Council will also give consideration to arranging or receiving delegations from our friendship regions, which will be determined by Council resolution on a case-by-case basis.

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| 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 |
| 3 | 17 June 2025 | 2025/138 | 17 June 2025 | 22 July 2025 |
| All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council at anytime. | | | | |

DIRECTORATE: Executive Services

BUSINESS UNIT: Executive Services