



MINUTES

International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Time: 11:00 AM

**Location: Council Chambers Darrandirra
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin**

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2024 AT 11:00 AM**

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful, the Chairperson Kon Vatskalis
Councillor Brian O'Gallagher
Austrade, Territory Liaison Advisor Daniel Hall
Chamber of Commerce NT Rohan Badenhop
Charles Darwin University, Vice-President Global and External Shannon Holborn
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Drew Boekel
Larrakia Nation, Chief Executive Officer Michael Rotumah
Port of Darwin, Executive Director Ben Cheng
Darwin International Airport, Chief Executive Officer Tony Edmondstone
Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan
Tourism Top End General Manager Samantha Bennett

OFFICERS:

Emma Struys (Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development)
Cherry Cai (Manager of Economic Development and International Relations)

APOLOGY:

City of Darwin, General Manager Innovation Alice Percy
Port of Darwin, Chief Executive Officer Peter Dummett
Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff
Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden
Chamber of Commerce NT, Chief Executive Officer Greg Ireland
Department of Tourism, Industry and Trade General Manager Luis Da Rocha

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1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

THAT the Chair declared the meeting open at 11:00 am.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and *support emerging Larrakia* leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

3 APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

City of Darwin, General Manager Innovation Alice Percy

Port of Darwin, Chief Executive Officer Peter Dummett

Darwin Convention Centre, General Manager Peter Savoff

Tourism Top End Board Member Alana Madden

Chamber of Commerce NT, Chief Executive Officer Greg Ireland

Department of Tourism, Industry and Trade General Manager Luis Da Rocha

3.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Charles Darwin University, Vice-President Global and External Shannon Holborn

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members

Committee members made the following declaration:

Councillor Brian O’Gallagher has been declared as the CLP candidate for Karama

The Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis received a bottle of wine from the Mayor of Joetsu, Japan, which has been declared and registered in the gifts register for Council accordingly

5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC001/24**

Moved: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

Seconded: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

THAT the minutes of the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 29 November 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED 11/0

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS**9.1 UPDATE ON FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF QUANZHOU****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC002/24**

Moved: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

Seconded: Tourism Top End General Manager Samantha Bennett

THAT the report entitled Update on Friendship City Proposal with the City of Quanzhou be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

9.2 LORD MAYOR CHINA TRIP UPDATE**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC003/24**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

THAT the report entitled Lord Mayor China Trip Update be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

9.3 UPDATE ON FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF HO CHI MINH**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC004/24**

Moved: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

Seconded: Tourism Top End Board Samantha Bennett

THAT the report entitled Update on Friendship City proposal with the City of Ho Chi Minh be received and noted.

THAT the International Relations Advisory Committee recommends City of Darwin to include the following cooperation areas in the Memorandum of Understanding of Friendship City relationship between Darwin and Ho Chi Minh.

CARRIED 11/0

9.4 2023/24 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET UPDATE**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC005/24**

Moved: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

Seconded: Tourism Top End General Manager Samantha Bennett

THAT the report entitled 2023/24 Sister Cities Action Plan and budget update be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS**10.1 JOETSU JAPAN TRIP UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC006/24**

Moved: Chamber of Commerce NT Rohan Badenhop

Seconded: Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

THAT the report entitled Joetsu Japan Trip Update be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

10.2 MEMBER VERBAL UPDATES**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IRACC007/24**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

THAT the report entitled Member Verbal Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

Darwin International Airport, Chief Executive Officer Tony Edmondstone

Provided some relevant updates on the status of works at the airport:

- There are additional canopies in the carpark in preparation for the wet season
- The upper level terminal works and food court area should be completed within six months
- Half of the runway has been completed and should be finished by October

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Drew Boekel

- Attended the ASEAN Summit in Melbourne
- Brazilian Head Commission and Darwin dialogue in April regarding talks on critical minerals and rare earths
- First Nations Ambassador keen to collaborate with indigenous networks in Darwin for the 2025 World Indigenous Forum

Chamber of Commerce NT Rohan Badenhop

- Provided information and interest in the Nicholas Moore report on cultural trade and that there is still a need for some financial pathway in order to progress
- Commented that airlines are important in international business growth and high prices for airline tickets need to be addressed accordingly by relevant groups/organisations
- Mark Newman is the new Senior Industry Councils Coordinator

Austrade, Territory Liaison Advisor Daniel Hall

- Export Market Development Grants amended laws have been finalised and will soon be tabled in Parliament wherein amendments will be increase in grant prices, eligibility requirements and changes in the payment schedule
- There will be an increase in international trade and a closer engagement in Southeast Asia with five missions with Singapore and Kuala Lumpur slated first
- A contract will commence between Austrade and NT Government

Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

- Mr John Rivas, Consul General, is requesting an update regarding the Friendship City status with Bacolod City, Philippines

Tourism Top End General Manager Samantha Bennett

- Currently addressing seasonality concerns on tourism efforts
- Tourism vouchers are currently at 55% coming from local tourists and the remaining portion are from interstate tourists
- Invigorating the centre with some additional enhanced digital platform
- Launch of *Welcome to the Dry* next week
- Travel Expo is ongoing

Port of Darwin, Executive Director Ben Cheng

- Mineral projects were stopped and cancelled for the last half of the financial year
- A lot of marine activities at Darwin Port
- Memorandum of Understanding with NT Garment

Larrakia Nation, Chief Executive Officer Michael Rotumah

- Tourism strategy plan will be completed by May
- Creation of a seasonal calendar with a focus on the 7 seasons and opportunity to promote that with *Tickets to the North*

Sister City Advisory Committee Chairperson Kate Heelan

- Talks with DFAT regarding skills development growth exchange program for businesses
- Invited Dr Kevin Evans, Director for Australian-Indonesian Centre in Jakarta, to come and speak about the Indonesian election and a session with DFAT and CDU on partnership prospects with Indonesia and scheduled on 17-20 April 2024

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT MEETING

15 May 2024 at 11:00 am

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:57 am