



# **AGENDA**

## **Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 27 March 2024**

**I hereby give notice that a Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on:**

**Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2024**

**Time: 5:30 PM**

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

**Webcasting:**

**Simone Saunders  
Chief Executive Officer**

**SISTER CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chair Kate Heelan  
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Community Member Cornelio De Varvaldo  
Community Member Vida Ruth Goodvach  
Community Member Nerida Hart  
Community Member Stephanie Lin  
Community Member Tony Miaoudis  
Community Member Max Stretton  
Community Member Ninik Stroud  
Alternate Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

**OFFICERS**

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

## Order Of Business

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**1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**3.1 Apologies**

**3.2 Leave of Absence**

**3.3 Leave of Absence Notified**

**4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE**

**4.1 Electronic Attendance**

**4.2 Electronic Attendance Notified**

**5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting - 29 November  
2023

**7**

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**8**

**PRESENTATIONS**

## 9 OFFICER REPORTS

### 9.1 UPDATE ON FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF QUANZHOU

**Author:** Manager International Business Relations  
**Authoriser:** Executive Manager Growth & Economic Development  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### PURPOSE

This report is to provide an update on Council's resolution following their consideration of the Friendship City proposal with City of Quanzhou from the Sister City Advisory Committee.

Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting on 6 February 2024 not to support the Friendship City proposal with the City of Quanzhou.

This decision gave consideration to limited resources and City of Darwin already has Sister and Friendship City relationships with multiple cities in China, including Guangzhou, Haikou, Shenzhen and Qingdao.

City of Darwin is looking for a diverse Sister/Friendship City network that will complement the existing links to Darwin's multicultural communities.

The Sister City Advisory Committee can view the Report and Resolution for details by accessing the Ordinary Council Meeting's [Agendas and Minutes | City of Darwin | Darwin Council, Northern Territory](#) on 6 February 2024.

**9.2 2023/24 SISTER CITIES ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET UPDATE**

**Author:** Manager International Business Relations  
**Authoriser:** Executive Manager Growth & Economic Development  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

Council endorsed the first Sister Cities Action Plan 2023/24 at the Ordinary Meeting on 26 April 2023.

New project proposals were discussed at the last Sister City Advisory Committee meeting on 29 November 2023 and will be considered to be part of the 2024/25 Sister Cities Action Plan.

**Actions updates**

Tasks/ Projects Scope/Deliverables	Status	Cost	Completed date
Darwin International Dragon Boat Festival and Darwin International Trade Show	Completed	\$12,000	3-5 June 2023
International Women's Day Walk 2023	Completed	\$1,428	4 March 2023
Sister City performances at Darwin Festival 2023	Completed	\$2,200	12-27 August 2023
Sponsor the Darwin to Ambon Yacht	Completed	\$8,000	5-12 August 2023
International Women's Day Walk 2024	Completed	1016.31	2 March 2024
Supports the schools in Dili	Completed	N/A	2024
Provision of \$9,000 for a potential project to Milikapiti	Ongoing/on hold	\$9,000	2024
Sponsor the Dili to Darwin Yacht Rally	Not go ahead	\$8,000	N/A
Kalymnos Scholarship program	ongoing	\$12,000	30 June 2024
Darwin Sister City Award – Visual Storytelling Photography Competition	ongoing	\$7,000	30 June 2024

The total budget for July 2022 to June 2024 is \$84,000 for the Sister City Program. The current expenditure is \$24,644 of the \$84,000. There is \$28,000 of existing project costs to be spent this

financial year. The amount remaining is \$39,356. City of Darwin officers are planning projects including the Sister Cities signage update at the Mall, a Darwin Virtual Reality project and a welcome or farewell function for Sister City guests from the Australia China Friendship Society National Conference. The estimated cost of these projects equates to the remaining budget.



**9.3 LORD MAYOR CHINA TRIP UPDATE**

**Author:** Manager International Business Relations  
**Authoriser:** Executive Manager Growth & Economic Development  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**Exciting developments in Darwin-China relations**

Since 1982, City of Darwin has been fostering global relationships, welcoming delegations, and enhancing economic opportunities.

Late last year Lord Mayor the Hon. Kon Vatskalis visited Southern China to attend a conference and while he was there, took the opportunity to meet with different parties and continue discussions, strengthening opportunities for economic, trade, cultural education, and tourism.

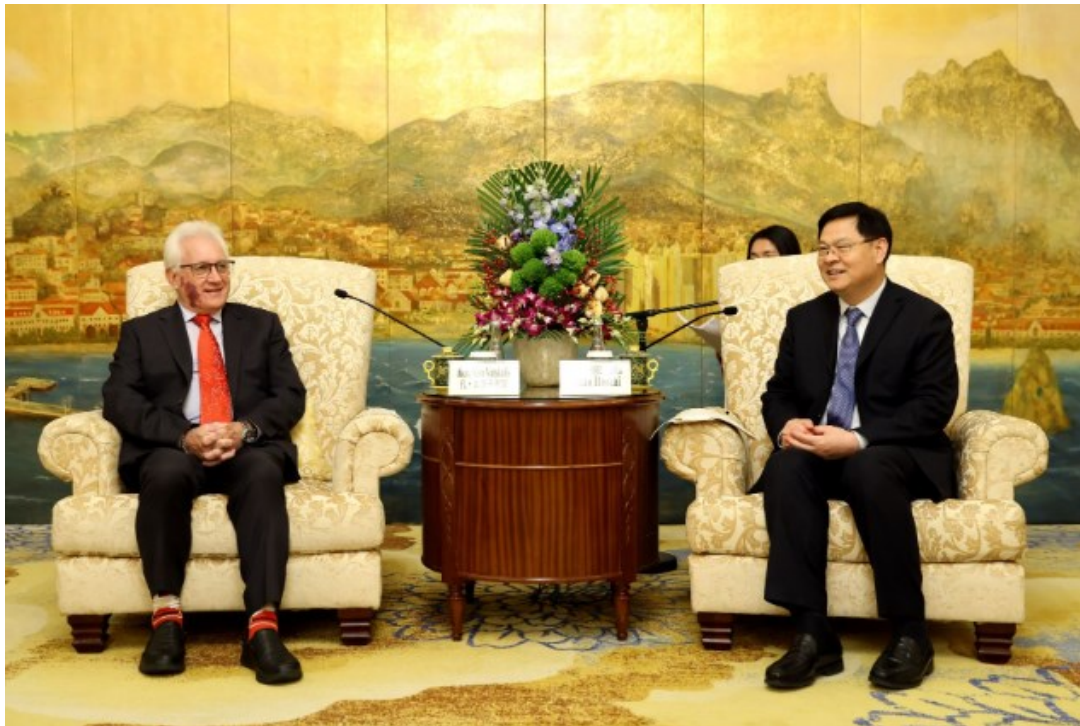
A few trip highlights include:

- Meeting with Guangzhou Municipal Cultural, Radio, Television, and Tourism Bureau to discuss tourism promotion.
- Conversations towards resuming direct flights and trade links between Shenzhen and Darwin.
- Promoting Darwin as a prime destination to Hainan Airlines (a top airline in China).
- Discussions of free trade opportunities for Darwin businesses from the Haikou Free Trade Zone with Sister City Haikou Municipal Government.
- Renewal of Friendship City Agreement with Qingdao Municipal Government.
- Appearance on Talk with Claire TV in Shenzhen, promoting Darwin to an audience of one billion people.
- Lord Mayor's trip to China received substantial positive coverage from more than 10 national and city-level media. The positive message contributes to developing a closer relationship with China and promoting Darwin as a destination to visit and do business.

The visit will potentially result in a few upcoming delegations to Darwin from China, including:

- the Director General and the Tourism Promotion team from Guangzhou Municipal Cultural, Radio, Television, and Tourism Bureau in late April
- Qingdao Municipal Government delegation, and
- performance group exchange program between Guangzhou and Darwin to be developed.

**IMAGES REFERENCES**





**9.4 UPDATE ON FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL WITH THE CITY OF HO CHI MINH**

**Author:** Manager International Business Relations  
**Authoriser:** Executive Manager Growth & Economic Development  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

THAT Sister City Advisory Committee recommends City of Darwin officers to include the cooperation areas in the Memorandum of Understanding of Friendship City relationship between Darwin and Ho Chi Minh, as detailed in this report.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Friendship City proposal with City of Ho Chi Minh.

**BACKGROUND**

Council resolved on 15 August 2023 for City of Darwin officers to pursue a Friendship City relationship with Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

**UPDATE**

Ho Chi Minh City responded on 4 December 2023 outlining their interest in establishing a Friendship City relationship with City of Darwin. Mr Phan Van Mai, Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee is delighted to see the strategic partnership between Vietnam and Australia continue to grow. Ho Chi Minh City enjoys good relations with several Australian states and cities such as New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and the Gold Coast.

Ho Chi Minh City believes that the Friendship City relationship between Ho Chi Minh and Darwin will facilitate cooperation and generate mutual benefits for the Vietnamese and Australian communities in the following areas:

- Investment and Trade
- Cultural exchange
- Education and training
- Tourism
- Innovation

The City of Ho Chi Minh is seeking feedback from City of Darwin to establish the areas for cooperation to work together in the future. These areas for cooperation will form the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding of Friendship City relationship between Darwin and Ho Chi Minh.

**NEXT STEPS**

To formalise the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Ho Chi Minh with a signing program to be developed in due course.

**10 MEMBER REPORTS**

Nil

**11 GENERAL BUSINESS****11.1 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**Author:** Manager International Business Relations  
**Authoriser:** Executive Manager Growth & Economic Development  
**Attachments:** 1. Max Stretton's Resignation Letter [↓](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report entitled Membership Update be received and noted.

THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee receive the resignation letter from Mr Max Stretton.

THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee thank Mr Max Stretton for his contributions to the Sister City Advisory Committee and its programs.

**From:** [Max Stretton](#)  
**To:** [Cherry Cai](#)  
**Subject:** Re: My resignation - Max Stretton  
**Date:** Monday, 11 March 2024 5:14:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Cherry

Thank you for your swift response. Unfortunately I will be away for the next meeting.

**Please accept this as my immediate resignation from the Darwin City Council Sister City Committee.** I have really enjoyed being on the Committee and please thank everyone for letting me be part of the Committee.

I look forward to seeing what work the Committee continues doing in the future.

And of course, thank you for your assistance to the Committee and making it really easy to be a part of the Committee.

Kind regards,  
Max Stretton

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**12 NEXT MEETING**

12 June 2024 at 5:30 pm

**13 CLOSURE OF MEETING**





# **MINUTES**

## **Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 29 November 2023**

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
SISTER CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY  
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 5:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chair Kate Heelan  
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Community Member Cornelio De Varvaldo  
Community Member Vida Ruth Goodvach  
Community Member Nerida Hart  
Community Member Stephanie Lin  
Community Member Ping Lu  
Community Member Tony Miaoudis  
Community Member Max Stretton  
Community Member Ninik Stroud

**OFFICERS:** Cherry Cai (Manager of Economic Development and International Relations)

**APOLOGY:** Nil

**GUESTS:** Nil

**Order Of Business**

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<b>4</b>	<b>Electronic Attendance</b> .....	<b>4</b>
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## 1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:32 pm.

## 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

Nil

### 3.2 Leave of Absence

### 3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

## 4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Max Stretton, Ninik Stroud

## 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

### 5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members

Nil

### 5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

Nil

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC022/23

Moved: Community Member Cornelio De Varvaldo

Seconded: Community Member Vida Ruth Goodvach

That the minutes of the Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting held on 6 September 2023 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 10/0**

**7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

**8 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**9 OFFICER REPORTS****9.1 FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL FROM VYAS MUNICIPALITY, GANDAKI, NEPAL****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC023/23**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Community Member Stephanie Lin

THAT the report entitled Friendship City Proposal from Vyas Municipality, Gandaki, Nepal be received and noted.

THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee provide feedback on the Friendship City proposal from Vyas Municipality, Gandaki Nepal as the following:

- The Sister City Advisory Committee acknowledges the growing number of the Nepalese community and annual Nepalese event and celebration in Darwin.
- To seek feedback and information from the local Nepalese associations for the demographic data on population from Vyas in Darwin.
- To identify whether there is international education opportunities.

**CARRIED 10/0****9.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LONG SERVICE - MR TONY MIADOUIS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC024/23**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Community Member Vida Ruth Goodvach

THAT the report entitled Acknowledgement of Long Service – Mr Tony Miaoudis be received and noted.

**CARRIED 10/0**

**9.3 SISTER CITY AGREEMENT UPDATE WITH TIWI ISLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC025/23**

Moved: Community Member Vida Ruth Goodvach  
Seconded: Community Member Cornelio De Varvaldo

THAT the report entitled Sister City Agreement Update with Tiwi Islands Regional Council be received and noted.

**CARRIED 10/0****9.4 DISCOVER DARWIN LINKEDIN MARKETING PLAN****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC026/23**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Seconded: Community Member Tony Miaoudis

THAT the report entitled Discover Darwin LinkedIn Marketing Plan be received and noted.

THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee members leverage Discover Darwin LinkedIn to connect the businesses and community from our sister/friendship cities and promote Darwin to international markets by providing information focusing on live, study, work and invest in Darwin.

**CARRIED 10/0****9.5 CITY OF JOETSU FRIENDSHIP CITY PROPOSAL UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC027/23**

Moved: Community Member Nerida Hart  
Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the report entitled City of Joetsu Friendship City Proposal Update be received and noted.

**CARRIED 10/0****9.6 MAYOR'S FORUM TRAVEL UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC028/23**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Seconded: Community Member Nerida Hart

THAT the report entitled Mayor's Forum Travel Update be received and noted.

**CARRIED 10/0**

**9.7 2024 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC029/23**

Moved: Community Member Cornelio De Varvaldo

Seconded: Community Member Vida Ruth Goodvach

THAT the report entitled 2024 International Women's Day be received and noted.

THAT the following Sister City Advisory Committee members will seek the appropriate representative from the community to carry the country flag representing the Sister Cities at the 2024 International Women's Day on 2 March 2024.

America flag: Vida Ruth Goodvach

Timor Leste flag: Cornelio De Varvaldo

China flag: Stephanie Lin

Australia flag: Nerida Hart

Indonesia flag: Kate Heelan

Greece flag: Tony Miaoudis

**CARRIED 10/0**

**9.8 CITY OF DARWIN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC030/23**

Moved: Community Member Stephanie Lin

Seconded: Community Member Vida Ruth Goodvach

THAT the report entitled City of Darwin International Relations Update be received and noted.

**CARRIED 10/0**

**9.9 YOUTH GROUP VISIT FROM KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY COUNCIL, UGANDA****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Chair Kate Heelan

Seconded: Community Member Cornelio De Varvaldo

THAT the report entitled Youth Group Visit from Kampala Capital City Council, Uganda be received and noted.

THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee provide the feedback and comments on the visit request from Kampala Capital City Council to City of Darwin:

- It is recommended that the request from the Kampala Capital City Council be referred to the Northern Territory Government (NTG).
- It is not recommended that City of Darwin host this delegation in consideration of few strategic alignment.

**CARRIED 10/0**

## 10 MEMBER REPORTS

### 10.1 SISTER CITY PROJECT PROPOSALS

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCAC031/23

Moved: Community Member Tony Miaoudis

Seconded: Chair Kate Heelan

THAT the report entitled Sister City Project Proposals be received and noted.

THAT the Sister City Advisory Committee recommends the following projects to be delivered and completed by City of Darwin between March – June 2024:

- Darwin Virtual Reality Project.
- Fundraising Quiz pending on the themes to be confirmed by the SSAC – no funding required.
- Sister Cities signs update at the Mall.
- Virtual Youth Roundtable to be referred to City of Darwin Youth Advisory Committee for consideration.
- More information is required for the Australia China Friendship Society National Conference to be considered by SSAC.

**CARRIED 10/0**

## 11 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Community Member Ping Lu tendered his resignation from the Committee effective 23 November 2023 due to relocation plans interstate after 20 years of service for the Sister City Advisory Committee.
- City of Darwin to organise the Christmas drinks

## 12 NEXT MEETING

5.30pm Wednesday 6 March 2023

## 13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.42pm.