

POL	SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS	SC33
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DIRECTORATE:	Executive Services
BUSINESS UNIT:	Executive Support
SERVICE UNIT:	Executive Support
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Director, Governance & Community Services
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BACKGROUND:

The City of Cockburn has established Sister City Agreements with the City of Split, Croatia (formed in 1998); the City of Yueyang, China (formed in 1998) and the City of Mobile, U.S.A. (formed in 2005).

Council has supported these relationships on an ongoing basis and wishes to state its intentions for the medium term future of these arrangements by the adoption of this Policy.

PURPOSE:

1. To promote Cockburn and assist in fostering economic development, tourism and trade relations.
2. To seek a wider understanding of other nations, their traditions, customs, education and cultures and similarly to promote to other nations the traditions, customs, education and cultures of Australia.
3. To foster international peace and goodwill

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POLICY:

- (1) The Council desires to maintain a small number of active sister city relationships based upon the benefits which can accrue, including trade, tourism, cultural, educational and sporting activities.
- (2) The Council considers that the abovementioned objectives can be achieved by:-
 1. Trade, cultural, educational, tourism and sporting exchanges.
 2. Official visits.
- (3) Accordingly, the Council's role will be:-
 1. To encourage exchanges.
 2. To facilitate and assist visits and exchanges (such as providing letters of introduction to the Sister City).
 3. To arrange an exchange of greeting on the occasion of visits from Sister Cities.
 4. To facilitate exchange of educational, cultural and promotional material.
 5. To encourage students to learn about a Sister City by carrying out school projects on that city.
 6. To provide information to visitors from Sister Cities on places of interest.
 7. To set up friendship associations for its Sister Cities, where possible.. These associations will be chaired by an Elected Member and would provide a vehicle for businesses, cultural and community groups, sporting associations and educational institutions to action the objectives of the Sister City relationship.
 8. To take an active role in the Sister Cities Australia organisation.
- (4) The question as to whether to establish additional Sister Cities should consider the possibility and benefits to be gained out of City/State Relationships.
- (5) These benefits should include but not be limited to:-
 1. Trade links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries where Australia has a free trade agreement or a proven trade record.

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2. Cultural links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries where Council determines that the City would benefit from a greater awareness and appreciation of that country's traditions and customs.
 3. Sporting links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries where Australia has existing sporting links through national sporting federations.
 4. Tourism links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries who are major sources of visitors to Australia or who provide a potential market for local tourism operators.
 5. Education links between the two countries; preference being given to cities in countries that have existing educational exchange programmes or who provide a potential market for local educational institutions.
- (6) Council will support a visitation program of each of its Sister Cities. A calendar of visiting delegations, both inbound and outbound, will be supplemented by an appropriate funding allocation in Council's annual Municipal Budget. The visitation program will allow for annual delegations (incoming or outgoing) to be reciprocated to/by the partner City in the following financial year. The program will be reviewed following the completion of the initial scheduled visits relevant to each partner City, as a means of assessing the outcomes of the visits and determining their value for the future.
- (7) Council will encourage all delegates (both inbound and outbound) to be supplemented with representatives who may be able to assist in furthering the benefits of these relationships, as noted at paragraph 5 (1) – (5) above.
- (8) Outbound delegations will be led by the Mayor and accompanied by the Deputy Mayor and up to a maximum of three(3) other Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or his/her nominated representative. In the event of the Mayor not being available to attend any outbound delegation, the Deputy Mayor will be nominated to undertake this responsibility.
- (9) The principle of selecting Councillors referred to in (8) above will be on the following basis:
1. Councillors wishing to join an outward delegation will submit their interest through the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) by a date and time specified by the CEO in writing.
 2. After the closure of nominations, if there are more than (3) Councillors who have submitted an interest to attend the delegation, then a ballot

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will be held of those Councillors only to fill the three (3) allocated positions.

3. If, following the process outlined in 2 above, there are three (3), or less, Councillors who have an interest in attending the delegation, then those Councillors only will participate in the delegation.
 4. The CEO will arrange a ballot, if required, to which all Councillors participating in the ballot will be invited to attend at the time and place nominated by the CEO, and
 5. A register of delegates attending outward delegations is to be established and maintained by the Executive Support Unit.
- (10) The Mayor and partner, accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her delegated nominee and any other person deemed to have relevance to the enhancing of the Sister City relationship, may participate in a delegation subject to appropriate provisions being made in the adopted budget.

SISTER CITY VISITATION SCHEDULE (PROPOSED)

2012 - 2017

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SISTER CITY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	
2012	Mobile	From Cockburn	(Outbound)
2013	Mobile	To Cockburn	(Inbound)
2014	Split	From Cockburn	(Outbound)
2015	Split	To Cockburn	(Inbound)
2016	Yueyang	From Cockburn	(Outbound)
2017	Yueyang	To Cockburn	(Inbound)