

# Sister City Policy

As at September 2020



# SISTER CITY POLICY

<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	Office of the CEO		
<b>DATE ADOPTED</b>	6 May 2014	<b>MINUTE</b>	100/14
<b>REVISED</b>	September 2020	<b>REVIEW</b>	2021
<b>ECM No</b>	1352116		
<b>ASSOCIATED POLICIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillors Facilities and Expenses Policy</li> </ul>		

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Title and Commencement

This policy is titled *Sister City Policy*. This policy was adopted on 6 May 2014 by Council resolution (minute 100/14) and was reviewed in September 2017. The following amendments have been made:

Date	Description	Council Meeting/Approval
6 May 2014	Adoption	Council Meeting Minute 100/14
September 2017	Review	CEO
September 2020	Review	CEO

### 1.2 Background and Purpose of Policy

This policy was developed to set out processes for establishing and reviewing Sister City relationships.

### 1.3 Objectives of the policy

The objectives of this policy are:

- to ensure that Sister City relationships are relevant and effective in delivering long term economic, cultural and social benefits for Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)
- to clearly identify Council's level of involvement in Sister City relationships

- to outline processes for establishing and reviewing Sister City Relationships
- to set out requirements for visits to and from Sister Cities

#### **1.4 Coverage of the Policy**

The policy applies to all Sister City proposals and agreements, parties to agreements which include councillors, Council staff and community and business organisations with interest or involvement in Sister City proposals or agreements.

#### **2.0 Policy Statement**

Council supports the establishment of formal Sister City relationships with other cities and regions to:

- promote and encourage economic, trade, educational, technology and social exchange and liaison between local government, business and community
- increase and improve understanding and exchange of information of international, national, state and local government issues
- enhance and promote the Strathfield LGA and foster close civic relationships with other local authorities internationally
- foster sharing of ideas, knowledge, values, tolerance and goodwill
- promote understanding and enhance awareness of the respective regions and their cultures, customs and traditions

Council will support, subject where appropriate to a Council resolution, initiatives with its Sister Cities including:

- civic exchanges
- cultural, sporting and education exchanges
- commerce and trade exchanges
- encouraging interaction and involvement between the young people of each region.

A commitment shall exist between Strathfield Council and any Sister City to work cooperatively for the good governance of both communities and where feasible, the sharing of knowledge and resources.

#### **2.1 Establishing of Sister City Relationships**

Council may establish a relationship through a Council resolution or in response to a request from a prospective Sister City. Any relationships must be reported to Council for consideration and outline the potential economic, cultural and social benefits for Strathfield LGA as well as indicative annual costs.

The following criteria will be used by Council when assessing whether or not to endorse a new Sister City relationship:

- strong cultural linkages between resident communities, including opportunities for interaction in education, sporting, recreational, technology and sustainable development
- sound economic opportunities between business communities
- similar status of cities in terms of geography, population industries etc
- no more than one Sister City relationship will be established with the same country

## **2.2 Sister City Agreements**

Relationships will be formalised by entering into an agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the aims and objectives of the relationship and level of commitment by both parties.

Formal visitation by Council to a Sister City is not an essential component. In principle, the travel and associated expenses of a delegation shall be paid by the City sending the delegation, except where a reciprocal arrangement applies.

Individual councillors, community or business members who seek to represent Strathfield Council at a visit to a Sister City may only do so where they have received endorsement from Council.

## **2.3 Visits to international Sister Cities by councillors**

Visits by Councillors to international Sister Cities require endorsement by Council resolution at an open meeting of Strathfield Council. Estimated costs and benefits should be clearly outlined in the Council report prepared for the meeting in accordance with the *Councillors Facilities and Expenses Policy*. *A report on a visit will be presented to an open council meeting. Details of the visit will be reported in the Council Annual Report.*

## **2.4 Review process**

Sister City Agreements will be reviewed within twelve months of a general local government election. Should Council decide to cease the agreement, negotiations will be made with the relevant Sister City to discontinue any formal arrangements.

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