
1 Objective

To provide a clear statement of the City's commitment to friendship agreements and sister city relationships, detailing the assessment criteria that will assist in ensuring maximum benefits being realised by both parties.

2 Policy Statement

It is recognised that the City of Swan is the major Local Government in the Eastern Metropolitan Region; this brings with it a degree of responsibility in regard to fostering national and international goodwill and relationships. However, it is important that this is balanced with the knowledge that the City of Swan is a fast growing outer metropolitan Local Government with increasing demands on limited resources.

The City of Swan desires to establish and maintain a small number of active sister city relationships, based upon benefits that can accrue including trade, tourism, educational and cultural activities.

In establishing a new relationship, the City is to first establish a 'Friendship Agreement'. This agreement is to be reviewed comprehensively by the Council after a period of five years, or earlier if appropriate, to determine if a Sister City relationship would be beneficial to the City.

In order to be considered for a Sister City relationship, the friendship is to have demonstrated considerable activity in the areas of trade, tourism, education and cultural exchanges.

Although the City of Swan is not currently actively seeking friendship agreements or Sister City relationships with national or international parties, requests are received from time to time.

2.1 Requests for Relationships

2.1.1 Having regard for Council's Governance Responsibilities (Local Government Act 1995) any requests should be in writing and are to be assessed individually against the following criteria:

a) Economic

- i. Similar economic development conditions and potential beneficial partnerships to business trade and investment climates and opportunities;
- ii. Tourism potential;
- iii. Comparison of key industries.

b) Social

- i. Population and demographics (nationals of one sister city residing in another);
- ii. Similar social infrastructure and multi-cultural issues;
- iii. Opportunity for broad based community involvement activity;
- iv. People to people interest, energy and commitment.

c) Educational

- i. Across economic, social and environmental issues;
- ii. Student/teacher exchange programs;
- iii. University linkages.

2.1.2 In considering the above factors, it is necessary to compare not only the similarities, but also the potential for these similarities to provide mutual benefit to the Cities involved. Each request, once assessed against the criteria is to be the subject of a report for Council consideration for either approval or refusal.

Governance References

Statutory Compliance	N/A
Industry Compliance	N/A
Organisational Compliance	N/A
Decision Maker	Council
Business Model Links	
Process Links	N/A

Policy Administration

Business Unit Name	Officer Title	Contact:
Marketing & Public Relations	Manager, Marketing & Public Relations	9267 9267
Risk Complexity Classification	1	Review Frequency Biennial
		Next Due 2016

Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis
1.	OCM 17/03/10	Adopt revised policy.
2.	Executive - 31/07/2014	Endorsed renewal of policy for 2 years.
3.	Governance - 26/08/2014	Endorsed renewal of policy for 2 years.
4.	OCM - 10/09/2014	Adopted policy for 2 years.