

International Relations Policy

Policy - CP040

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1. The purpose of this policy is:

To provide the foundation to support Council's participation in international relationships with a view to promoting cultural and investment opportunities and providing humanitarian support.

2. Policy Statement

Mildura Rural City Council is committed to supporting relationships with other countries to the extent that they promote cultural and historic ties, foster economic links, and/or provide humanitarian support.

3. Principles

Relationships with other countries shall be categorised as one of the following:

3.1 Sister-City Relationships

3.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of Sister-City relationships shall be to foster cultural, historical, educational, sporting and where appropriate, economic links.

3.1.2 Criteria

- Similar status of cities to that of Mildura in terms of geography, population, industries etc; or
- Strong cultural linkages between resident communities including opportunities for interaction in history, education, sport and recreation activities; or
- Sound economic opportunities between business communities, where appropriate.

3.1.3 Commitment of Council

- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding stating the objectives and mutually agreeable areas of interest;
- Commitment to visit sister-city where agreed to by Council;
- Host visitations from sister-city;
- Support agreed sporting, cultural and educational programs; and
- Develop business opportunities, where appropriate.

3.2 Business Partner Relationships

3.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of Business Partner relationships shall be to facilitate investment in Mildura and to assist in the development of business opportunities for Mildura companies in overseas countries.

3.2.2 Criteria

- Opportunity to develop business and investment in Mildura; or
- Opportunity for Mildura companies to expand into international markets; or
- Potential to build trust through face-to-face contact and shared activities leading to successful business partnerships; or
- Maintenance of existing business relationships.

3.2.3 Commitment of Council

- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding stating the objectives and mutually agreeable areas of interest;
- Explore business and investment opportunities;
- Host industry delegations from business partner city;
- Attend trade fairs and promotional campaigns, where appropriate; and
- Assist in the attraction of visitors to the Mildura region.

3.3 Humanitarian Relationship

3.3.1 The purpose of Humanitarian relationships shall be to provide support and assistance to countries that have been disadvantaged by economic, social or environmental circumstances.

3.3.2 Criteria

- Identified need for support and/or assistance; or
- Connection to the country either through other relationships in this policy or proximity to the country concerned; or
- Capability within Council to provide meaningful assistance.

3.3.3 Commitment of Council

- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding stating the objectives of the support or assistance to be provided;
- Provide resources, where appropriate, to assist in redeveloping the area concerned; and
- Provide ongoing support as required to maintain the relationship.

3.4 Nomination of New Relationship

Nominations for the development of new relationships into any of the following categories should be provided to Council in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

- Sister-City Relationship
- Business Partner Relationship
- Humanitarian Relationship

In doing so, the nomination should outline how the new relationship meets the relevant relationship criteria and the benefit the relationship will have to both Council and the municipality.

Nominations will be determined by Council resolution with the nominee notified of the outcome.

3.5 International Relationship Principles

In conducting its international relationships, Council commits to the following principles:

- Determination of an activity into one of these categories shall be based on the primary purpose of the activity
- Each agreement may include two visits during each Council term (every four years). This will involve one visit to and one visit from the international friendship
- A cost benefit analysis of the relationship will be undertaken before and after international exchanges to ensure the realisation of determined outcomes in relation to the purposes outlined in sections 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 3.3.1
- Invitations will be provided to relevant business representatives, agencies and institutions who, at their own cost, may choose to attend the exchange with the Council delegation
- Draft itineraries and expected outcomes will be endorsed by Council prior to the acceptance of international exchanges
- Within 60 days of the exchange visit a report will be presented to Council outlining the key outcomes from the exchange
- Within 60 days of the exchange visit a report will be presented to Council outlining all expenses incurred from the exchange

3.6 International Exchanges

Council shall, by resolution determine the composition of any delegation to a Sister- City, Business Partner or Humanitarian cities.

MRCC Hosted Delegations

The following criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council should host an international delegation:

- a clear intention of the visit has been articulated by the potential visitor and there is a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit
- the visit fits within allocated budget constraints

International Invitations

The following criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council will accept an international invitation to visit:

- A formal invitation has been received from the City
- A clear purpose of the invitation has been articulated by the City and there is a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit
- The visit is a priority taking into consideration any other intended overseas visits for the financial year
- Whether there is a budget available to allow for the visit

4. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?

General Manager Corporate Performance

5. Definitions

Nil

6. Legislation and other references

6.1 Legislation

N/A

6.2 Documents

This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following documents:

- Community and Council Plan – 2021 - 2025

6.3 Risk Assessment Reference

Risk Category	✓	Risk Category	✓
Asset Management Committees Compliance – Legal & Regulatory Contract Management Contract Tendering & Procurement Corporate Governance Environmental Sustainability	✓ ✓	Financial Sustainability Human Resource Management Leadership & Organisational Culture Occupational Health & Safety Organisational Risk Management Project Management Public Image and Reputation	✓ ✓ ✓