

1. Rationale

Council's participation in the Sister Cities Program (SC Program) enables its community to establish and maintain relationships with other communities throughout the world.

2. Policy statement

The SC Program creates the opportunity to foster international goodwill while enriching our community with a broader understanding of other nations, their traditions, communities and cultures. It also provides an avenue that may lead to economic benefits, tourism and cultural exchanges.

3. Objectives

The primary objective of this Policy is to enable the council to utilise the SC Program to:

- develop long-lasting, mutually beneficial friendships and exchange ideas
- gain a valuable understanding of international, national or state issues, cultures and traditions
- generate harmony, tolerance and goodwill
- promote economic growth and increase tourism
- exchange cultural and educational experiences and values
- exchange technical assistance and advice to other cities.

4. Policy scope and implementation

Council maintains a Sister City Relationship (SCR) with the following city:

- Kokubunji, Japan (established 1993)

SCRs should be established for their strategic relevance to council and its community. Where possible, SCR should be based on the concepts of reciprocity and mutual benefit, except in circumstances where they have been entered into for humanitarian reasons.

4.1 SCR Assessment Criteria

In addition to ensuring the SCR meets the objectives of the SC Program and this Policy, council will use the following criteria to assess the suitability of entering into a new SCR or when reviewing existing SCR:

- **General:** relevance to the local community, any existing linkages, demographics (including cultural), historical, sporting or artistic significance and ease of access.

- **Economic:** similar economic conditions, trade and investment opportunities and tourism potential.
- **Social:** similar social infrastructure and issues, opportunity for broad-based activity, people-to-people interest, energy and commitment.
- **Educational:** opportunity for student/teacher exchange programs.
- **Humanitarian:** opportunity to use the skills of council staff and the community to assist in the development of the sister city consistent with other organisational policies and procedures.
- **Existing relationships:** assessed against the level of communication with sister city, history of outcomes to-date and current/proposed projects.

4.2 SCR Approval Process

The approval of a SCR is a two-staged process as follows:

Stage 1: Adoption at a General Council meeting of a resolution to establish or not establish a SCR.

Stage 2: Formalising the SCR through the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Mayor of the City of Marion and the leader of the nominated city or town.

5. Definitions

Term	Definition
Sister City Relationship (SCR)	A relationship between council and another city to promote the objectives of the SC Program.

6. Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Unit Manager, Engagement, Media and Events	Implement this policy

7. References

Nil

Review and evaluation

The Unit Manager Engagement, Media and Events reviews this Policy every four years (or earlier if required) in accordance with the City of Marion Policy Framework. Council approves this Policy.