



**GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL**

# **INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Adopted by Council: 20 April 2017

Next Review: June 2023

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY

<b>Code:</b>	25.POL1
<b>Version:</b>	1.2
<b>Business Unit:</b>	Sustainable Development
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Economic Development
<b>Approved By:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Adopted By:</b>	Council 17 August 2021
<b>Next Review:</b>	June 2023

### DOCUMENT REVISIONS

<b>Version #</b>	<b>Summary of Changes</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Policy first draft and adopted.</b>	<b>20 June 2017</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Policy review with minor change.</b>	<b>19 February 2019</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Updated to ensure Federal and State Policies are also considered when undertaking international liaison efforts.</b>	<b>17 August 2021</b>

## PURPOSE

This International Engagement Policy is intended to aid Council in taking the appropriate measures when entering into a Friendship or Sister City agreement, managing delegations, deciding what international visits are most appropriate for Council representatives to attend and maintaining current Friendship and Sister City Relationships

## OBJECTIVE

- To support developing and emerging agribusinesses and their increasing requirement for high technical infrastructure.
- To develop and promote the municipality as a regional centre for food and primary industry research and development.
- To provide increased opportunities for local job creation.
- To sustain a growing and diverse industrial base.
- To encourage tourism growth and in particular promote the tourism opportunities of the irrigated rural landscape and the food growing and processing industries.
- To encourage investment in the region creating a prosperous future.

## SCOPE

1. This policy applies to all Councillors and Council officers who are involved in international relations.
2. This policy applies to all international relationship agreements, including but not limited to Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, International Memorandums of Understanding, and Statements of Intent.
3. This policy applies to all international relationship agreements regardless of how they are initiated.
4. This policy applies to all communication, strategy development, marketing, community engagement or consultation activities that align with international relations.

## DEFINITIONS

Reference term	Definition
Council	Council of the City of Greater Shepparton
Sister City Agreement	Where two cities from different countries establish a formal agreement to build global cooperation at the municipal level, through promotion of cultural understanding, exchange of information and to stimulate economic development
Friendship City Agreement	Where two cities from different countries establish a formal agreement to build global cooperation at the municipal level, through promotion of cultural understanding, exchange of information and to stimulate economic development

## **POLICY**

### **1. Sister City and Friendship City Agreements**

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council should enter into a Sister City or Friendship City Agreement:

- Economic and Social benefits that the relationship would create for Greater Shepparton.
- The likelihood of increasing the potential for trade between the two cities.
- Synergies that exist between the two cities and whether a clear demand exists for Greater Shepparton product or the opportunity to attract investment or imports.
- The potential to establish international student placement opportunities in conjunction with local Universities and GoTafe.

Each Sister City and Friendship City Agreement should feature the following within the agreement:

- A sunset clause
- A 12 month review period
- Agreed outcomes
- The opportunity to extend the formal relationship
- A clear purpose of the agreement

*In line with the Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020, Council will notify the Minister for Foreign Affairs within 14 days of entering into any Sister City or Friendship City agreement. Notifications should be made through the Foreign Arrangements Scheme Online Portal ([www.foreignarrangements.gov.au](http://www.foreignarrangements.gov.au)).*

### **2. Delegations and Business visits**

The following Selection 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 also a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit.
- The visit aligns with the International Engagement Strategy and the key objectives within the strategy.
- Visit fits within allocated budget constraints.
- The extent to which the visit aligns with Federal and State Government policies.

### **3. Invitations to International Cities**

The following Selection Criteria will be considered by Council when determining whether Council will accept an international invitation:

- A formal invite has been received from the City.
- The extent to which local Greater Shepparton businesses are interested in joining the delegation to visit.
- A clear purpose of the invite has been articulated by the City or State authorities/government and there is a clear understanding of the potential outcomes that can be created as a result of the visit.
- The visit aligns with the International Engagement Strategy and the key objectives within the strategy.
- The visit is a priority taking into consideration other intended overseas visits for the financial year if any.

- Whether there is budget available to allow for the visit.

#### 4. Maintaining current Sister and Friendship City relationships

- All relationships should have a focus on creating both economic and social benefits.
- All relationships should demonstrate economic progression and create opportunities for local business.
- All existing relationships should align with the direction of this policy and the International Engagement Strategy.
- Should it be determined that existing relationships are not achieving economic and social outcomes and do not align with the International Engagement Strategy, the relationship should be reviewed. If a sunset clause applies to the relationship, the relationship should not be extended.
- Focus should be applied towards existing prosperous relationships and also entering into relationships with other international cities where benefits can be created between our region and the city.

#### RELATED POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES

- Greater Shepparton International Engagement Policy

#### RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Foreign Relations Act 2020*

#### REVIEW

The International Engagement Policy is to be reviewed by the Manager Economic Development. Any suggested changes will be presented to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration.



11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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**Peter Harriott**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Date**