



Sister City Relationship Policy

Reference Number:	1.12
Type:	Council
Category:	Corporate Governance and Finance
Relevant Community Plan Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be bold and innovative in our practices, leadership and decision making.• Practise transparent and accountable governance.
Responsible Officer(s):	Chief Executive Officer
First Issued/Approved:	March 2014
Minutes Reference:	CoS 3/04/2018, Item 3.15
Last Reviewed:	April 2018
Next Review Due:	April 2020
Applicable Legislation:	Nil
Related Policies:	Nil
Related Procedures:	Nil

1. Purpose

The City of Charles Sturt has made a commitment to participate in Sister City Relationships which establish and maintain friendships with other communities throughout the world.

The aim on the program is to encourage international goodwill where it enriches our community by broadening our understanding of other nations, their traditions, customs and cultures and for economic prosperity.

2. Scope

Sister City Relationships will be established if they have the ability to promote shared cultural, educational, economic or humanitarian awareness.

Sister City relationships assist in leading economic growth, increased tourism, and building reliable business contacts.

3. Policy Statement

All requests to participate in a Sister City Relationship will be considered by Council and the following criteria will be considered:

- The ability to establish reliable business contacts and thereby improve business opportunities;
- The ability to generate harmony, tolerance and goodwill;
- Have the capacity to allow for the sharing of ideas, knowledge and values;
- Provide assistance in the development of local contacts; and
- To foster cultural connections.

Relationships will be formalised by entering into a Sister City Agreement from both the City of Charles Sturt and any Sister City to work cooperatively for the good governance of both communities and the sharing of knowledge.

In some instances a more formal agreement, such as a Memorandum of Understanding, maybe formalised. This will generally be linked to building economic growth, increased tourism and building reliable, ongoing relationships.

Formal visitation by the City of Charles Sturt to a Sister City will not necessarily form part of the relationship agreement. The travel and associated expenses of a delegate from the Sister City will be the responsibility of the Sister City.

4. Definitions

List all key terms and acronyms that are used in the policy, and their definition.

Key Term	Definition
Sister City Agreement	A formal document describing a bilateral agreement between two parties
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	A formal agreement between two or more parties to establish official partnerships. MOUs are not legally binding but carry a degree of seriousness and mutual respect, stronger than a general agreement.