

# City of Greater Geraldton

## 2.2 ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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### SUSTAINABILITY THEME

#### Economy

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### OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to set out the goals, principles, selection criteria, and the management processes associated with the development and operation of formal relationships between the governments of the City of Greater Geraldton and Cities in other Nations and to align City of Greater Geraldton principles with those contained in the Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020.

### POLICY STATEMENT

The Council of the City of Greater Geraldton may establish formal or informal relationships with the Governments of Cities in other Nations for the purposes of economic, social, cultural or environmental development in the mutual interests of the Cities.

For the purposes of this policy - Sister City Relationships and Strategic Partnerships are classified as:

- **Sister City Relationships** are formal agreements between City governments with economic, social and cultural dimensions.
- **Sister City Relationships** are much broader in scope than a Strategic Partnership, with emphasis on developing and nurturing long-term relationships on behalf of, and involving, their respective businesses and communities.
- **Strategic Partnerships** are formal relationships between cities that are typically less broad in scope than a Sister City relationship. This may involve strong business or community level synergies, focused toward specific areas.

## POLICY DETAILS

### 1. Goals

International relationships will offer benefits to the City of Greater Geraldton and should align with the City of Greater Geraldton’s strategic directions as outlined in the City’s Greater Geraldton 2031 – Strategic Community Plan, and the Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan 2020 – 2023 (GJGP).

Alignment with the Strategic Community Plan Outcomes as follows:

Strategic Direction	Aspiration	Outcomes: What will happen
Economy	A healthy thriving and resilient economy that provides opportunities for all whilst protecting the environment and enhancing our social and cultural fabric.	<p>2.4: A desirable place to live, work, play study, invest and visit.</p> <p>2.5: Our competitive advantages are built upon and our business success is celebrated.</p> <p>2.6: A diverse and globally recognised regional capital.</p>

Alignment with the Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan as follows:

GJGP Vision	Geraldton - A Diverse and globally connected regional capital.
Focus Area: Growth Cluster Development	<p><b>Focus Area Goal</b></p> <p>To identify and grow Geraldton’s established strengths and niche specialisations, where deep local competencies align with global demand.</p> <p><b>Focus Area Strategy</b></p> <p>Identify and pursue growth opportunities with China and arising from new Free Trade Agreements.</p>
Platform for success: Investment Attraction	<p><b>Platform Goal</b></p> <p>To attract and facilitate investment from local, regional, national and international players.</p> <p><b>Platform Strategy</b></p> <p>Proactively match markets and investors with local traded sector clusters and business, focusing on leveraging existing Sister City Relationships whilst scanning for new opportunities emerging from new Free Trade Agreements and cooperative agreements.</p>

### 2. Principles of Establishing International Relationships

The following principles should apply to International relationships:

- The City of Greater Geraldton may have one Sister City per country and a maximum of 6 Sister City relationships at any one time;
- The City of Greater Geraldton may only add one Sister City per year;
- The proposed Candidate City must be with a country with which the Federal Government of Australia and/ or Government of Western Australia has a positive relationship;

- In addition to formal Sister Cities, the City may also establish Strategic Partnerships as determined by Council;
- Proposals that conform to the selection criteria will be submitted for endorsement by the Executive Management Team followed by a Council decision.

### 3. Selection Criteria

The following criteria should be utilised in the selection of Sister City or Strategic Partner City.

#### General Criteria:

- Gross Domestic Product: should be comparable to the Midwest region or larger or of an equivalent proportional GDP ratio of country to region;
- Growth: Candidate Cities should have favourable growth rates;
- Economic Activity: Candidate Cities should have strong trade activity;
- Potential: Candidate Cities should be identified as priorities for future development;
- Investment: Candidate Cities should have potential for mutual investment;
- Commercialisation: Candidate Cities should have potential for cooperation in commercially applicable research;
- Academic organisations: Candidate Cities should have academic institutions such as colleges, universities and research centres;
- Innovation: Candidate Cities should encourage new technologies, research and invention;
- A new relationship needs to be based on agreed projects/ programs for which Council has endorsed a resource allocation.

#### Economic Development:

- Support the City of Greater Geraldton's strategic priorities;
- Expand the City's network of business contacts and relationships;
- Increase international private sector investment in the Midwest;
- Provide a conduit between local innovation and international industry;
- Accelerate economic growth through commercial partnerships;
- Leverage existing industry strengths into increased innovation and job creation;
- Grow the Traded Sectors of the City's regional economy;
- Promote the Midwest region as an attractive tourist destination

#### Cross Cultural Development:

- Promote City of Greater Geraldton as an innovative City;
- Promote City of Greater Geraldton's cultural community;
- Establish relationships between cultural institutions, universities and colleges, museums, heritage institutions, community arts, libraries and sports.

International Cooperation:

- Support international education, research and cooperation;
- Increase global awareness of the City of Greater Geraldton and the Midwest.

4. **Management processes associated with the development and operation of formal relationships.**

4.1. **Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020.**

According to the *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020* a Local Government should:

- Notify the Minister of foreign Affairs of a proposal to enter any non-core\* foreign arrangement.
- Notify the Minister of Foreign Affairs within 14 days after entering a non-core foreign arrangement.

\* A non-core foreign arrangement are any arrangements that do not involve both State/Territory government and a foreign national government. This includes arrangements between local governments and any foreign government entities.

4.2. **Management of International Relationships**

After a new relationship has been approved by Council, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs notified, all activities associated with programs (such as visits overseas, hosting visits and coordinating local groups seeking to engage with Sister Cities or Strategic Partner Cities) should be coordinated by the Economic Development Officer responsible for international relationships, in consultation as necessary with the Mayor and CEO, to ensure that all activities meet the objectives of this policy.

4.3. **Relationship Plan**

Every international relationship under consideration should have a relationship plan outlining:

- The key objectives of the relationship. For example, encouraging and facilitating economic, social-cultural and environmental exchanges, developing networks;
- Long-term goals;
- Key focus areas for the relationship;
- The main stakeholders; and
- Key performance indicators to measure benefits/ outcomes.

4.4. **Budget and Resource Commitment**

Funding for international relationships is subject to an annual allocation of funds through the City's annual budget process.

4.5. **Termination of Relationships**

Termination of relationships should be based on consensus by both parties, due to the following reasons:

- No actual interactions in 2 years.
- Not reaching the goals and objectives set by this Policy.

## KEY TERM DEFINITION

*Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020:*

Introduced with the *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020*, the Act establishes a legislative scheme for Commonwealth engagement with arrangements between State or Territory governments and foreign governments, and their associated entities.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director Corporate Services is responsible for implementing this policy.

City of Greater Geraldton is the facilitator/ enabler of all City-to-City International relationships, including Sister City Relationships and Strategic Partnerships. The City will work with local industries and other groups to maximise benefits from developing international relationships.

## WORKPLACE INFORMATION

*Local Government Act 1995*

City of Greater Geraldton's Code of Conduct

Greater Geraldton 2031 Strategic Community Plan

Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025

Long Term Financial Plan

Geraldton Jobs and Growth Plan 2020 – 2023

*Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020*

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Corporate Services		Coordinator Economic Development	Biennial	2025
Version	Decision Reference		Synopsis	
4.	TBA	TBA	Policy Review	