

COUNCIL POLICY



TITLE:	Glenelg Shire Council International Relationships
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DEPARTMENT:	CEO
UNIT:	CEO
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	Staff - Department only	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Staff - Organisation wide	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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REFERENCES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirmation of Friendly Relationship and Exchanges between Glenelg Shire and City of Zhangjiagang DocSetID: 885360
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1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide an organisational protocol and framework for the conduct of friendship relationships and exchanges with international cities. The policy also applies to the existing relationship between Glenelg Shire Council and Zhangjiagang city in the People's Republic of China.

2. **Background**

Glenelg Shire has a number of medium and large industries competing in global and national markets. Businesses in the Shire operate in the international market and some of the larger businesses within the Shire are part owned by international parent companies. This includes Keppel Prince, Incitec Pivot and Portland Aluminium that each has south east Asian partner companies.

Glenelg Shire has an international trading port, the Port of Portland. The Port exports woodchips, livestock, mineral sands and aluminium, predominantly to south east Asia.

Glenelg Shire is a popular tourism destination for international travellers accessing world class nature based attractions. This includes blue whale watching, recreational fishing, the Grampians National Park, Great Ocean Road and Coonawarra wine region, all within two hours' drive from the Shire. The Shire's industry base and natural attractions generate significant interest and visitation from other countries.

The former City of Portland developed a friendly relationship with Zhangjiagang China over many years. Following its creation in September 1994, the Glenelg Shire Council and Zhangjiagang China continued to develop the friendly relationship which resulted in the establishment of a friendship agreement with Zhangjiagang in 1995. This agreement was reaffirmed by the City of Zhangjiagang and the Glenelg Shire Council on the 15 April 2010.

The protocols and objectives contained in this policy will guide how Council conducts international relationships with other cities, particularly the existing relationship with Zhangjiagang.

3. **International Relationship Objectives**

The key objectives for Council in undertaking international relationships with other municipalities include:

- To develop goodwill between residents different countries;
- To develop a cultural understanding and tolerance of other cultures and people amongst residents and governing bodies of the respective local government authorities;
- To provide an avenue for information exchange between the participating local government authorities; and

- To develop and promote productive relationships between residents, businesses, industries and governing bodies in the respective local government municipalities.

4. Criteria for Establishing International Relationships

International relationships will be established and maintained when the majority of the following occur and continue to be demonstrated:

- Strong cultural linkages between resident communities, including opportunities for interaction in education, sporting, recreational and/or cultural activities.
- Sound economic links and/or opportunities between business communities.
- Significant similarities with local government authorities in terms of geography, industries, population, infrastructure or civic institutions.
- Capacity of respective local government authorities to support and facilitate cultural and business interests.
- Willingness and capacity of residents and business communities to contribute and maintain international relationships.

5. Obligations

Council commits to the following obligations in sustaining international relationships formally entered into by Council:

- To conduct exchanges (visits) to the other country and reciprocate by hosting exchanges from the international friendship partner.
- To facilitate exchange of educational, cultural and promotional materials.
- To promote information on international friendship within Glenelg Shire to visitors and businesses.

6. International Relationship Principles

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

- 6.1 A formal friendship agreement will be entered into providing clear expectations on obligations and commitments to the friendship partner.
- 6.2 The friendship agreement will include a maximum of two visits during each term of the Council (every four years). This will involve one visit to and one visit from the international friendship city.
- 6.3 Appropriate budget allocations will be made to accommodate the friendship city exchanges.

- 6.4 The Mayor and up to three (3) Councillors can attend international exchanges to the host city. Councillor travelling expenses are the personal responsibility of Councillors (that is, Councillor travelling expenses will not be funded by Council).
- 6.5 International friendship city delegations will include invitations to relevant business representatives who, at their own cost, attend the exchange with the Council delegation.
- 6.6 Communications between Council and an international friendship city will be made directly between the respective administration offices of each city. This will mean that some translations may be required.

END OF POLICY