



CITY OF HOBART

# **AGENDA**

## **Economic Development & Communications Committee Meeting**

### **Open Portion**

**Thursday, 25 March 2021**

**at 4:30 pm  
via Zoom**

## THE MISSION

**Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.**

## THE VALUES

**The Council is:**

<b>People</b>	We care about people – our community, our customers and colleagues.
<b>Teamwork</b>	We collaborate both within the organisation and with external stakeholders drawing on skills and expertise for the benefit of our community.
<b>Focus and Direction</b>	We have clear goals and plans to achieve sustainable social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Hobart community.
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b>	We embrace new approaches and continuously improve to achieve better outcomes for our community.
<b>Accountability</b>	We are transparent, work to high ethical and professional standards and are accountable for delivering outcomes for our community.

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## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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**Business listed on the agenda is to be conducted in the order in which it is set out, unless the committee by simple majority determines otherwise.**

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**Economic Development & Communications Committee Meeting (Open Portion)**  
held Thursday, 25 March 2021 at 4:30 pm in the via Zoom.

This meeting of the Economic Development and Communications Committee is held in accordance with a Notice issued by the Premier on 3 April 2020 under section 18 of the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020*.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Thomas (Chairman)  
Zucco  
Sexton  
Dutta  
Ewin

**Apologies:**

**Leave of Absence:** Nil.

**NON-MEMBERS**

Lord Mayor Reynolds  
Deputy Lord Mayor Burnet  
Briscoe  
Harvey  
Behrakis  
Sherlock  
Coats

**1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY**

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**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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The minutes of the Open Portion of the Economic Development & Communications Committee meeting held on Thursday, 26 November 2020, and the Special Economic Development & Communications Committee meeting held on [Thursday, 17 December 2020](#), are submitted for confirming as an accurate record.

**3. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

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Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

**Recommendation**

That the Committee resolve to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager.

#### **4. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Members of the committee are requested to indicate where they may have any pecuniary or conflict of interest in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the committee has resolved to deal with.

#### **5. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS**

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Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

A committee may close a part of a meeting to the public where a matter to be discussed falls within 15(2) of the above regulations.

In the event that the committee transfer an item to the closed portion, the reasons for doing so should be stated.

Are there any items which should be transferred from this agenda to the closed portion of the agenda, or from the closed to the open portion of the agenda?

## **6. REPORTS**

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### **6.1 International Relations - Update** **File Ref: F21/11675; 16/78**

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Report of the Manager Economic Development Engagement and Strategy and the Deputy General Manager of 18 March 2021 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - UPDATE**

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Economic Development Engagement and Strategy  
Deputy General Manager

**1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to propose the Council's level of engagement with our International Relationships for the next 12 months.
- 1.2. This report will provide clarity to both Hobart's community and the Council's international relationships.

**2. Report Summary**

- 2.1. COVID-19 continues to impact upon the City's international relationships, predominantly because of continuing travel restrictions and reduced budgets. Uncertainty remains in terms of continued spread of COVID-19, as well as associated social and economic effects on Hobart and the countries in which we have or are investigating international relationships.
- 2.2. It is proposed to place on hold any significant strategic decisions around international relations throughout 2021.
- 2.3. It is also proposed that the City's investigations into potential new relationships with cities Jiri in Nepal, and Kochi in India, who are both profoundly impacted by COVID-19, continue to be placed on hold through 2021.
- 2.4. With regards to investigations into a potential new relationship with Incheon in South Korea, the State Government has expressed a renewed trade interest in South Korea specifically around Antarctic links. The State Government has indicated that it is keen to see a Hobart - Incheon city relationship progress and has offered its support with ongoing communications. It is therefore proposed that officers continue to consult with the Tasmanian and Australian governments regarding progressing investigations into this relationship.
- 2.5. It is further proposed that operational activities relating to Hobart's existing international relationships with Yaizu in Japan, Fuzhou and Xi'an in China and L'Aquila in Italy are no longer paused but communications and future planning with our international counterparts be maintained online.

Additionally officers will focus attention to undertaking local community-based engagement with our international relationship's local community groups and stakeholders throughout 2021, requiring minimal to no budgetary requirements other than officer time.

- 2.6. The waste education program being considered for Balibó in Timor Leste, presented to the Economic Development and Communications Committee on 21 November 2019, will be placed on hold throughout 2021 due to reduced budgets and impacts of COVID-19.
- 2.7. Further, the Australian Government's Foreign Arrangements Scheme launched on 10 December 2020 has been established to ensure arrangements between governments and foreign government entities do not adversely affect Australia's foreign relations and are not inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy.
  - 2.7.1. The Deputy General Manager will arrange to meet with the State Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to seek advice regarding the Council's existing friendship and sister city arrangements.

### **3. Recommendation**

#### ***That:***

- 1. Investigations into potential new relationships with cities Jiri in Nepal, and Kochi in India to be placed on hold throughout 2021 and reviewed in February 2022.***
- 2. Council officers will continue to consult with the Tasmanian and Australian governments regarding opportunities for a new relationship with Incheon in South Korea and report back to the Council as appropriate.***
- 3. Operational activities relating to existing international relationships to be recommenced online. Officers to undertake local community-based engagement throughout 2021, with minimal to no additional budgetary requirements other than officer time.***
- 4. The waste education program being considered for Balibó in Timor Leste, to be placed on hold throughout 2021 and reviewed in February 2022.***
- 5. The Minister for Foreign Affairs be advised of the Council's existing relationships with foreign entities by 10 June 2021.***



#### 4. Background

- 4.1. Elected Members will recall that at the meeting of 7 September 2020, the Council resolved *inter alia* that:
1. *Strategic decisions relating to existing and new international relationships are deferred, to be considered in March 2021.*
  2. *Major operational activities relating to existing and potential new international relationships are paused until March 2021.*
- 4.2. The previous report and recommendations, which resulted in the Council's decision to pause strategic and operational activity with existing and potential new international relationships, is included for reference as **Attachment A** to this report.

#### COVID-19

- 4.3. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the management of the City's international relationships in 2020 was significant, as detailed in the previous report, of August 2020 (Attachment A).
- 4.4. The uncertainty and risk of new outbreaks of the pandemic continue, along with travel, social distancing and operational restrictions. The Council's budgetary constraints continue along with reduced human resources. Therefore, usual delivery of international relations strategic initiatives and operational activities continue to be hampered.
- 4.5. There continues to be minimal budget this financial year to support the City's international relationships (existing and potential) beyond officer time. This situation is expected to continue into the 2021-22 financial year.

#### Foreign Arrangements Scheme

(<https://www.foreignarrangements.gov.au>)

- 4.6. The Australian Government's Foreign Arrangements Scheme launched on 10 December 2020 has been established to ensure arrangements between governments and foreign government entities do not adversely affect Australia's foreign relations and are not inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy.
- 4.7. It is important to note that the Scheme requires all local governments to declare arrangements entered into with foreign entities prior to 10 March 2021, including sister city arrangements, by 10 June 2021.
- 4.8. Local governments must also notify the Minister for Foreign Affairs before entering into new arrangements with foreign entities (known as 'prospective foreign arrangements'), and again within 14 days after entering into a prospective foreign arrangement.

- 4.9. The Deputy General Manager will arrange to meet with the State Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to seek advice regarding the Council's existing friendship and sister city arrangements.

### **Existing International Relationships**

- 4.10. Following the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 and reallocation of the international relation's budget, officers were still able to maintain communications with our existing international relationships via email and achieved a number of small scale local activities through collaborating with the community, including:

4.10.1. A number of communications were sent and received between Lord Mayor Councillor Reynolds and the Mayors of our existing relationships, expressing ongoing empathy regarding the impacts of COVID-19 and advising of the decision to pause activity, as well as acknowledging significant occasions throughout the year. Correspondence between officers regarding matters of shared interest also continued.

4.10.2. New Year greetings were sent to all our existing international relationship city mayors from Lord Mayor Councillor Reynolds as well from the Council's International Relations Manager and officers.

### **Yaizu, Japan**

4.10.3. Officers attended online and socially distanced in-person meetings with Hobart Yaizu Committee

4.10.4. Japanese Children's Day was celebrated online. The event captured Children's Day activities taking place across Hobart and Yaizu schools, along with drone footage of the traditional carp shaped windsocks flying at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and Government House. Footage gathered was edited in-house and shared with the participating schools, local Japanese groups and the broader community through the City's website and media platforms as well as with Yaizu City and participating schools in Yaizu.

<https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/News-publications-and-announcements/Latest-news/Celebrating-Japanese-Childrens-Day>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsHCrRL8eA0>

4.10.5. In recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a letter and footage of a small event held in Hobart was sent to Yaizu. The small COVID-safe event was held at the LOOP, at no expense other than officer time and the generous collaborations of the Australia-Japan Society (Tasmania) and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (TSO)

Chorus, schools and students. The event comprised of a short film created by the City of Hobart showing Haikus and imagery created by 49 students from 10 schools across Hobart reflecting on their visions for world peace. Five students attended the event and read their Haikus; the TSO Chorus performed the traditional Peace Song and speeches were delivered by Hobart's Honorary Consul-General and Melbourne's Consul-General for Japan, Lord Mayor Councillor Reynolds and Councillor Sherlock.

<https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/News-publications-and-announcements/Latest-news/news-imagine-peace>

The City Soapbox billboards launched *New Lines of Sight*, in August 2020. The project was commissioned in 2019 to celebrate 30 years of student exchange of the Hobart – Yaizu Japan sister city relationship. Community artist Sara Wright, with interpretation by Yukiko Burns, facilitated young women from Yaizu and Mt Carmel College in 2019 in a creative process, navigating bias and sharing cultural perspectives, seeing themselves and each other *with new eyes*. The result is a collective dreaming for the future: a global society of friendship, reciprocity and peace.

<https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Community/Arts-and-culture/Public-art/Soapbox-billboards/yaizu>

- 4.10.6. Alderman Briscoe, Councillor Sherlock, Deputy General Manager Tim Short and international relations officer attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event of the Australia-Japan Society of Tasmania.

### **L'Aquila, Italy**

- 4.10.7. Officers communicated by email and attended socially distanced in-person meetings with the Italian Abruzzese Association.

### **Xi'an, China**

- 4.10.8. Hobart's five year friendship agreement with Xi'an technically expired in March 2020.

Communications were held with officers in Xi'an late 2019 with Xi'an expressing their interest in renewing the agreement. Hobart officers provided Xi'an with information requested pertaining to Hobart along with a collection of images and a promotional video.

**Fuzhou, China**

- 4.10.9. Communication has been minimal with Fuzhou during 2020, however, communications and/or activities will be reactivated as appropriate during 2021.

**Balibó, Timor Leste**

- 4.10.10. A report, concerning our relationship with Balibó, in Timor Leste, was presented to the Economic Development and Communications Committee on 21 November 2019. The report provided a detailed budget and implementation plan for a waste education project focusing on environmental issues associated with single use plastics.

The Council on 2 December 2019, resolved:

*That the matter be deferred for further consideration by the Committee.*

Investigations by Council officers into a scaled down project ceased following the recommendations endorsed by the Council on 7 September 2020, to defer any strategic decisions or major operational activities in respect of international relations until March 2021.

- 4.10.11. Council officers will work to prepare advice for the Australian Government regarding the Council's existing relationships with foreign entities by 10 June 2021.

**New International Relationships****Jiri, Nepal, and Kotchi, India**

- 4.11. On 23 September 2020 letters from Lord Mayor were sent to Jiri in Nepal, and Kotchi in India, advising of the pause in international relations. In reply, both Jiri and Kotchi replied conveying their understanding and need for them to also direct their attention to their immediate community and addressing the issue of COVID-19. There has been no further communications with Jiri or Kotchi to date.

**Incheon, South Korea**

- 4.12. Advice of the international relations pause was not sent to Incheon in South Korea. This was decided as there had been no communication received back from Incheon following the initial letter enquiring if there was interest in establishing formal friendship relations from the Lord Mayor, or follow-up communications by Council officers.
- 4.13. Discussions were held in December 2020 between Council officers and the Department of State Growth's Manager of International Partnerships, regarding interest from the State Government for Hobart

to actively pursue a formal relationship with Incheon. State interest was predominantly due to renewed trade interests specifically in relation to Antarctic links, including science collaboration (Incheon is home of the [Korea Polar Research Institute \(KOPRI\)](#); Hobart as a South Korean expedition departure port; and as a multi-million dollar purchaser of Tasmanian Antarctic traversing equipment.

- 4.13.1. Independent to State Government interests noted above, Hobart, as a premier Antarctic Gateway City, has a strong commitment to Tasmania's Antarctic sector and raising its profile.

One of the Council's six City Deal focus areas, is to solidify Hobart's world class standing as a gateway to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, further supporting the Council's commitment to develop opportunities that support Hobart's Antarctic sector.

Additionally, the City has invested financially and in-kind over four years (2016-20) in the Antarctic Gateway Cities Project led by the University of Tasmania and Western Sydney University. The Project concluded in October 2020 with the final report due at the end of March 2021. The report will include an evaluation of best practices of how the Antarctic sector can engage communities including tourists both locally and globally. A further outcome of the project has been the formation of the Antarctic Gateway's Youth Coalition (as detailed in Attachment A, section 4.41).

In February 2021, communication was received by Council officers from the Department of State Growth's Manager of International Partnerships, regarding informal advice that Incheon's interest was in establishing a friendship agreement at a state level. However, a friendship agreement does not fit within the State Government's specified priorities for 2021. If Incheon were to change their views and be interested in a relationship with Hobart, the advice from the Manager of International Partnerships was that they would be fully supportive and have capacity in 2021 to commit financial resource to assisting.

## **5. Proposal and Implementation**

### **Existing Relationships**

- 5.1. It is proposed that officers continue to maintain existing international relationships in 2021 through online communications, working with the Lord Mayor's unit as required. Officers will collaborate with local international city relationship committees, associations, community groups, schools and local community organisations and individuals to

deliver sustainable and small scale activities to continue the City's commitment to our 2019-29 strategic goals.

- 5.2. Advice be provided to the Australian Government regarding the Council's existing relationships with foreign entities by 10 June 2021.
- 5.3. Letters will be sent from Lord Mayor to all existing international relationship mayors updating them on Council's decision.

### **New International Relationships**

- 5.4. Letters will be sent from Lord Mayor to the Mayors of Jiri in Nepal, and Kochi in India, advising of the continued hold in international relations and seeking an update on their situation.
- 5.5. Council officers will continue to communicate with the Tasmanian and Australian governments regarding pursuing a formal city relationship with Incheon, South Korea.

## **6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations**

- 6.1. Ongoing engagement in international relations is aligned with *Hobart: A community vision for our island capital* and outcomes outlined in the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-29*, particularly:
  - 2.2.2 *Support and advocate for all people and communities to celebrate their histories and identities and encourage mutual understanding*
  - 2.2.3 *Provide and support activities and programs that celebrate diversity to reduce social isolation and build cohesion*
  - 4.3.7 *Support the city's existing international relationships and respond to new opportunities, in line with the community vision*
  - 4.3.8 *Develop greater community involvement in international relations programs*

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result
  - 7.1.1. Proposals in this report have no financial implications for this year's operating result.
- 7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result
  - 7.2.1. Officers will consider the 2021-22 budget in light of the pandemic, restrictions and the Council's financial position.
- 7.3. Asset Related Implications
  - 7.3.1. There are no asset related implications.

**8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 8.1. The International Relations Action Plan is a non-binding document. The nature of friendship / sister city relationships are also non-binding. As such, there will be no negative legal implications from the recommendations in this report.

**9. Environmental Considerations**

- 9.1. Given that very limited aviation travel is taking place at present, the Council's current international relationships are having no negative impact on the environment.

**10. Social and Customer Considerations**

- 10.1. It is of social importance that the City of Hobart fosters a diverse selection of international relationships based on geography, industry and nature of outcomes (community, culture, economic).
- 10.2. This report is not aiming to undermine the importance of the City's international relationships, but given budgetary and travel constraints, is advocating for an appropriate adjustment in activities until February 2022 when the impact of COVID-19 and the Council's financial situation can once again be considered.

**11. Marketing and Media**

- 11.1. When smaller activities took place in 2020 such as Children's Day and the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, the City ensured it maximised the opportunity to spread the word through the community utilising social media, the corporate website, media coverage, City News and use of City assets such as the LOOP, Soap Box and car park billboards. The use of communication platforms will again be maximised through 2021 to promote and engage the community with activities undertaken.

**12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

- 12.1. All local and international stakeholders affected by the proposals in this report, as with the September decision, will be consulted as a matter of priority.

**13. Delegation**

- 13.1. This matter is delegated to the Council.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*




Luke Doyle  
**MANAGER ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT AND  
STRATEGY**



Tim Short  
**DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER**

Date: 18 March 2021  
File Reference: F21/11675; 16/78

Attachment A: International Relations Review - August 2020 ↓ 



**REPORT TITLE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REVIEW**

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Senior Advisor Economic Development  
Manager Economic Development Engagement &  
Strategy  
Director Community Life

**1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of international relations activities that took place from June 2019 to the present, in line with the Council endorsed International Relations Action Plan (IRAP).
- 1.2. This review of activities normally takes place in May each year but this was unable to take place this year as Council committees were not operating as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, a summary of May 2019 - August 2020 activities will occur.
- 1.3. Given the unprecedented circumstances within which the Council is now operating as a result of COVID-19, this report will provide clarity to the community about the Council's short term intentions when it comes to its international relationships.
- 1.4. Another community benefit of this report is that it provides a summary of activities relating to international relations that have been completed over the last 15 months.

The activities were guided by the IRAP, a plan that was created specifically to ensure that community value is delivered by Hobart's international relationships.

**2. Report Summary**

- 2.1. This report presents all activities delivered with the guidance of the International Relations Action Plan (IRAP) over the last 15 months (May 2019 to August 2020).
- 2.2. It also summarises activities that occurred outside the parameters of the IRAP but were considered appropriate as they assisted significant partner organisations achieve their international engagement goals.
- 2.3. Traditionally this report has recommended changes to the IRAP based on a year of reflection and practical delivery. This year it is proposed that this is delayed.
- 2.4. COVID-19 has had an immeasurable impact upon the City's international relationships, predominantly because of travel restrictions and reduced budgets. Given the uncertain nature of the pandemic in terms of further outbreaks and social and economic repercussions, it seems unwise to make strategic decisions at this point.

- 2.5. It is further proposed that major operational activities relating to existing relationships are also paused for six months (until March 2021). Should the circumstances surrounding the pandemic have changed significantly by this point, it allows adequate time for officers to incorporate international relations activities into the 2021–22 budget.
- 2.6. The City was asked to investigate relationships with three cities (Jiri in Nepal, Kochi in India and Incheon in South Korea) and consider the future of the existing relationship with Xi'an in China. It is also proposed that these activities are paused until March 2021. This is mainly because it is felt that these cities, like Hobart are currently focussed on assisting their communities through the pandemic which gives them little capacity to make strategic decisions.
- 2.7. This report has traditionally listed anticipated activities for the year coming. Given the constantly changing situation with respect to COVID-19, it is felt that now is an inappropriate time to be planning international projects and visits.
- 2.8. The City's Economic Development Unit primary focus in the short term will be on local businesses and how they might be supported through further crisis and recovery phases of COVID-19.
- 2.9. Contact with international cities with which the City has existing or investigative relationships will be maintained through Council officers, but it is proposed that major activities will be paused until March 2021.

### **3. Recommendation**

#### ***That:***

1. ***The Council receives the progress report against the current International Relations Action Plan 2018.***
2. ***Strategic decisions relating to existing and new international relationships are deferred, to be considered in March 2021.***
3. ***Major operational activities relating to existing and potential new international relationships are paused until March 2021.***
4. ***The Lord Mayor contacts the cities of Yaizu (Japan), L'Aquila (Italy), Xi'an (China), Fuzhou (China), Balibó (Timor-Leste), Incheon (South-Korea), Jiri (Nepal) and Kochi (India) to advise them of the Council's pause in activity.***
5. ***The Council notes the Economic Development Unit's current focus on supporting local businesses through COVID-19 crisis and recovery phases.***

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1. The International Relations Action Plan (IRAP) was first endorsed by the Council on 9 May 2016.
- 4.2. This plan informs the nature of the City's international relationships and provides strategic direction.
- 4.3. The current version of the IRAP (as amended in 2018) is included in this report as **Attachment A**.

#### **COVID-19**

- 4.4. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the way in which the City's international relationships have been conducted has been severe. This year for example, has been the first time in 31 years that students have not travelled to Hobart from sister city Yaizu. Planning for other potential visits such as a youth soccer team from Fuzhou and the Mayors and youth ambassadors from the other four global Antarctic gateway cities have also been halted. These activities have been curtailed as a result of travel restrictions but also as a result of the financial position of the Council.
- 4.5. The Council is facing a forecasted drop in revenue of \$17.94M in the 2020–21 financial year and as a result has needed to make savings of \$5.11M. In order to make this saving, many budgets have been reduced, including the international relations budget. There is no budget this financial year to support the City's international relationships (existing and potential) beyond officer time.
- 4.6. Travel and budgetary constraints must be front of mind for elected members when making decisions relating to the City's international existing and potential relations.

#### **Existing Relationships**

- 4.7. The City of Hobart has four formal international relationships and a relationship in development. These are provided below with observations about how the pandemic is affecting life in each place:
  - **Sister City with Yaizu, Japan**, established in 1977. The origins of this began with the tuna fishing fleets from Yaizu harbouring in Hobart during the 1960s and 1970s. Because of regular and long visits from the fishermen, business and personal connections started to form between Hobart and Yaizu. The relationship has continued to operate via cultural exchanges and student visits (the student exchange program reached its 30<sup>th</sup> year in July 2019).

In Yaizu, people must currently wear face masks in public areas which can be removed if people are standing apart. Public facilities in the Shizuoka prefecture within which Yaizu is situated are governed by restrictions around the number of people that can

assemble, measurement of body temperature, physical distancing and using hand sanitiser. The Shizuoka prefecture (similar to State Government) also has set restrictions on which prefectures can be visited and can in turn visit the region. As school has been closed for a long time this year, the long summer holiday has been reduced to two weeks. Children at school must wear face masks when in class. There are other government guidelines for shops, restaurants, cinemas etc. but they are not enforceable.

- **Sister City with L'Aquila, Italy**, established in 1997. This region is where the majority of the early Italian immigrants to Tasmania originated. Members of the local Hobart Abruzzese community initiated the development of this relationship and continue to be its driving force. Three generations of the Abruzzese community often come together to celebrate the links between the Abruzzo region of Italy and Hobart.

Information from the local government in L'Aquila is that the instances of COVID-19 in L'Aquila are few and currently under control. Hotels and restaurants are open with people required to observe physical distancing and wear masks. Shops are open with limits on the number of patrons as well as requirements to use hand sanitiser and wear masks. In outdoor spaces, masks are not mandatory although sporting clubs are currently still closed. Schooling was web based until June when the summer holidays commenced. It is intended that students will be returning to school for the new term commencing on 14 September. At school, desks will be spaced apart and students will be required to use hand sanitiser and wear face masks.

The Abruzzese Association of Hobart has confirmed that the most significant annual festival in L'Aquila - the [Perdonanza Celestiniana](#) is going ahead for the 726<sup>th</sup> year, no doubt on a lesser scale.

- **Friendship City with Xi'an, China**, established in 2015. The City of Xi'an is the ancient capital of China and home of the world famous Terracotta Army. Areas identified for cultural, knowledge and economic cooperation were science and technology, education, aquaculture, agriculture and tourism. Education has been the most successful area for collaboration during the relationship.

As is normal with friendship agreements, the five year commitment between Hobart and Xi'an expired in March 2020, although recent correspondence with Xi'an suggests that the desire is to continue the formal friendship.

At the time of writing this report, the City of Hobart had not heard back from Xi'an about how life has been affected.

- **Friendship City with Fuzhou, China**, established in 2017. Fuzhou approached the City of Hobart to consider a friendship relationship. Fuzhou, like Hobart is a coastal city bordering a mountainous region. Fuzhou is the capital of the Fujian Province which has been Tasmania's sister state since 1981. There is an active community in Hobart from the Fujian Province. A number of successful projects have been delivered with Fuzhou, largely around sport and education.

Fuzhou has reported that life is getting back to normal. People don't need to wear a face mask in open spaces but do in supermarkets, cinemas, small closed spaces and on public transport. Public gatherings are starting to take place but they are smaller than in previous years. Restaurants have been open for several months and cinemas opened last month but with gaps between seats. Schools opened for a month in June and closed for the summer holidays. Like previous years, they are expected to open on 1 September.

- 4.8. As above, the most significant difference between a 'sister city' and a 'friendship city' in these circumstances is that the friendship city agreements are not ongoing, they have a clause at five years that allows either city to leave the relationship.

#### **Balibó**

- 4.9. The City of Hobart on 23 April 2018 resolved inter alia to commit to a long term relationship with the village of Balibó (in Timor-Leste). The Council is yet to endorse a project to be delivered between Hobart and Balibó.
- 4.10. A report was brought to the Economic Development and Communications Committee on 21 November 2019 providing a detailed budget and implementation plan for a project focusing on educating school children in Balibó on the environmental issues associated with single use plastics.

Concerns were expressed by the Committee and the Council about the size of the proposed project in financial terms.

- 4.11. In response to the above concerns, a report had been prepared for the Economic Development and Communications Committee on March 26, 2020. This report proposed a smaller scale pilot project. This committee was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.12. The Council now finds itself operating in a different economic and social climate to when the original project and pilot project were scoped and costed.
- 4.13. As with the new relationships, it is proposed that any further actions relating to a potential pilot project are paused until March 2021.

- 4.14. The Timor-Leste Friendship Network (TLFN) has a long and active history of supporting Timor-Leste that commenced prior to 1975. They also made the initial suggestion about a relationship between Hobart and Balibó following their visit in 2017. They had committed to lead on community fund raising activities (with assistance from the City of Hobart) to enable the pilot to be delivered.
- 4.15. The TLFN are aware of the financial position of the Council and the pressure facing local businesses and are supportive of the pause of this project until March 2021.
- 4.16. The project delivery organisation [Bottle for Botol](#) is also aware and understanding of this position as they themselves have a number of projects in the delivery phase that have been paused.

Impact of COVID-19 on Timor-Leste

- 4.17. A recent [article](#) published by the University of Melbourne summarises the situation and response of Timor-Leste well.
- 4.18. There are currently no active cases in the country and to date, no deaths have been recorded. Only 24 cases have been recorded in total and these have arisen as a result of students returning from studying in Indonesia.
- 4.19. The country declared a state of emergency on 28 March and this ended toward the end of June. Land and air borders are opened once per week with a two week quarantine for incoming passengers.
- 4.20. Citizens received support packages including soap, eggs and rice from non-government organisations and households earning less than \$500 USD per month were eligible for a monthly subsidy of \$100 USD p/m from the government.
- 4.21. As with many countries, the social and economic costs of declaring a state of emergency has been high. Many businesses have had to downsize or close and the burden of caring for school age children and other family members has predominantly fallen on women and young girls. There are also concerns about increased incidences of domestic violence.
- 4.22. Although Timor-Leste appears to have the COVID-19 situation in hand, there are concerns about the border it shares with West-Timor which has seen higher numbers. As has been seen as locally as Victoria, the situation can change from positive to dire very quickly.

### **New Relationships**

4.23. The Council on 2 December 2019 resolved:

*That*

*1. The Council endorse the shortlisted cities of Incheon (South Korea), Kochi (India) and Jiri (Nepal) to be explored further for formal relationships.*

*(i) A further report to be provided to the Council on the findings.*

4.24. The Lord Mayor wrote to each of the three cities on 3 February 2020 to advise them of the Council decision and enquire whether there was any interest on their part to further investigate a relationship.

4.25. A response was received from the Mayor of Jiri on 7 February 2020 expressing a keen interest in establishing a relationship. The Lord Mayor responded once more to the Mayor of Jiri on 8 April 2020. This letter recommended that the City of Jiri contacted the Senior Advisor Economic Development at the Council to further discuss the matter. To date, the Senior Advisor Economic Development has not been contacted by a representative of Jiri.

A Council officer made enquiries in August about the impact of COVID-19 on the community in Jiri. A prompt response via the Honorary Consul-General of Nepal in New South Wales was received from the Mayor of Jiri (**Attachment B**). To date, there have been no cases of COVID-19 in Jiri.

4.26. The relationship between Kochi and Hobart has received significant support from the Indian community in Greater Hobart. Prior to the Council decision, Council officers received letters of support from:

- Hibi Ebdon (Member of Parliament – Kerala)
- Dr K. N. Madhusoodanan (Vice-Chancellor of the Cochin University of Science and Technology)
- Sunny Malayil (President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cochin)

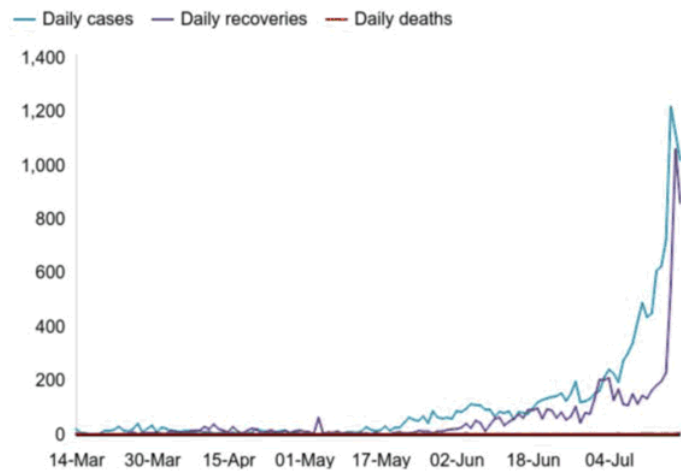
The initial letter from the Lord Mayor did not reach the Mayor of Kochi but this was re-sent on 28 February. The City of Hobart is still to hear from the Mayor of Kochi in response.

A contact in Hobart with significant connections in Kochi recently provided information on the impact of the pandemic on the city. The state of Kerala within which the city of Kochi is based

It seems that Kerala initially contained the pandemic well. The [Guardian](#) newspaper reported only 524 up to May. Unfortunately, as reported by the [BBC](#), by 20 July the caseload had exceeded 12,000 as demonstrated in the graph below:

### **Kerala's case numbers are rising fast**

Reported cases, recoveries and deaths, 14 March to 19 July



Source: India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

BBC

- 4.27. The City has not to date received a response from the city of Incheon.
- 4.28. There are concerns that the contact details of the Mayor of Incheon are incorrect. Confirmation of the correct details are currently being sought.

The website of Incheon Metropolitan City Council regularly reports cases of COVID-19. The [latest report](#) below of 14 August shows relatively low numbers for a city of almost 3 million people.

Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Testing in progress	Under Self-quarantine
393 (+3)	379 (+3)	324 (+14)	1,861
<small>*Hospitalized:11 Deceased:3</small>			

- 4.29. Given the ongoing impact of the pandemic on international travel, the financial position of the Council and the likely focus of cities on responding to COVID-19 rather than considering strategic matters, it is proposed that the City pauses further investigation of these relationships until March 2021.



### **International Activities - June 2019 – August 2020**

#### **4.30. June**

- A team of 14 paddlers from Greater Hobart travelled to Hobart's friendship city of Fuzhou (China) to take part in a dragon boat festival 6–7 June 2019. This visit was brokered and supported by an officer at the City of Hobart.

As a result of the city to city friendship, the Fuzhou Municipal Sports Bureau provided funding (hotels, local transfers and meals) for the team for four nights to support their participation. This was the first time that an Australian team has been involved in the festival thanks to the Hobart-Fuzhou relationship.

A presentation was received by the Economic Development and Communications committee from two attending paddlers on 20 June 2019.

Discussions were had about welcoming a dragon boat team to Hobart in March 2021 for a similar experience. As a result of the impacts of the pandemic however, these conversations have halted.

#### **4.31. July**

- Eight students and two adults from Yaizu visited Hobart for a week and were home hosted by Mount Carmel College students. This was coordinated by the City of Hobart and was the 30<sup>th</sup> year of student exchange between Yaizu and Hobart.

The City also coordinated a day excursion to Bonorong Park for the Yaizu students and their host sisters. An afternoon tea reception was hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor at the Town Hall, welcoming the Yaizu students and thanking their host families. The students also visited Government House.

This arrangement over the years has resulted in students from Hobart schools forming enduring friendships with students from Yaizu, continuing their studies of Japanese at University and working as English teachers in Yaizu.

For the first year, the City of Hobart commissioned community artist Sara Wright to work with the Yaizu students and their host students from Mt Carmel College. The project was commissioned to celebrate the 30 year milestone of international student exchange as part of the Hobart Yaizu sister city relationship, now in its 42nd year. Sara designed a series of creative workshops to encourage the students to contemplate their cultural exchange experience more deeply. They created a uniquely imaginative 'shodo' symbol (a traditional Japanese character). The symbol translates to "with gratitude, our dreams

become real". The works are currently being displayed on the City's Soapbox billboards, overlooking Mathers Place. See below:



- Six teachers and ten students from Fuzhou Number 8 Middle School visited their sister school Hobart College.

The friendship between the two institutions was established 13 years ago with a visit taking place each year. The Deputy Lord Mayor hosted an afternoon tea for the students in the Lord Mayor's Courtroom.

#### 4.32. **August**

- Discussions were had with Ms Masako Sawada (Japanese Tour Guide) about a Rosny College (Taiko Drummer) visit to Japan (including Yaizu) in March 2021. As a result of the impacts of COVID-19, these discussions have halted.

#### 4.33. **September**

- A delegation of 18 from South Hobart Football Club took part in an international youth sister city soccer tournament in Fuzhou.

This was brokered and supported by the City of Hobart and would not have taken place without the friendship city relationship between Hobart and Fuzhou.

The Fuzhou Municipal Sports Bureau provided funding (hotels, local transfers and meals) for five nights.

The under 14 and 15 players were able to compete against a team from Fuzhou and Fuzhou's friendship city of Nagasaki (Japan).

Additional to the tournament, the delegation from South Hobart partook in a number of cultural activities organised by Fuzhou such as visiting a Buddhist temple and mid-Autumn festival activities.

Feedback from South Hobart Football Club was that this was an ideal opportunity for many of the players to play overseas for the first time. They also made friendships that transcended language barriers and acquired cultural knowledge that will benefit them for a lifetime.

A presentation was given by the South Hobart Football Club to the Economic Development and Communications Committee on 26 September 2019.

- Two elected members and a senior officer from the City of Hobart travelled to Xi'an to take part in the Euro-Asia Economic Forum and discussions about the future of the relationship (given that the five year agreement was due to expire in March 2020).

Mr Qiang Sheng – Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Xi'an Municipal People's Government expressed the desire to reinvigorate the relationship and suggested that Xi'an travel to Hobart to reaffirm the relationship in 2020. Given the

travel restrictions that have been imposed as a result of COVID-19, a delegation from Xi'an has been unable to travel.

The City of Hobart did receive a letter from Xi'an in June 2020 suggesting a number of educationally focussed projects that both cities could collaborate on. The Director of Community Life responded suggesting that the projects were of interest but that in the absence of a visit from Xi'an, a discussion of the future of the relationship was preferable before any projects were advanced.

- The Manager Economic Development, Engagement and Strategy from the City of Hobart took part in the Sister Cities Australia Forum in Perth and took part in round table discussions focussed on:
  - Funding for sister cities – how to manage with less.
  - Overcoming a negative media image.
  - Working within politically charged countries.
  - How do you 'withdraw gracefully' from a sister city relationship?

The forum also included award presentations and group presentations on the significance of international relations, culminating in the AGM.

#### 4.34. **October**

- Groups of students and teachers from Mount Carmel and St Virgil's colleges visited Yaizu. This would not take place without the sister city relationship between Hobart and Yaizu.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Opening of the Antarctic Season Reception was hosted by the City of Hobart in the ballroom of the Town Hall. Approximately 200 people attended, including American (NASA) personnel, City of Hobart International Student Ambassadors and international member states of CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources).

According to the latest research commissioned by the Tasmanian Polar Network, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector contributes \$180M per annum to the Tasmanian economy. The City of Hobart recognises the value of this sector by organising the Antarctic Reception to honour the out-bound expeditioners. This assists partners such as Antarctic Tasmania (a dedicated unit within the Tasmanian Government) and the Tasmanian Polar Network in fulfilling their objectives around engagement with the Australian and other national Antarctic programs.

**4.35. November**

- The Australia Japan Society (Tasmania) hosted celebrations for Japanese Culture Day in the Lord Mayor's Courtroom. The Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne Mr Kazuyoshi Matsunaga attended the event in addition to elected members and officers from the City of Hobart.
- A City of Hobart officer attended a dinner to welcome the Chinese Antarctic vessel (the Xue Long 2 Icebreaker). This was hosted by the Tasmanian Government.
- The Council requested that new potential international relationships for the City of Hobart were investigated. 61 cities around the world were investigated with a short list of four recommended. This involved significant research and consultation with stakeholders such as the University of Tasmania and multi-cultural groups in the Greater Hobart area.

Four cities were shortlisted for further investigation. As set out in this report, these were Jiri (Nepal), Kochi (India) and Incheon (South Korea).

**4.36. January 2020**

- Elected members and a Council officer attended a farewell event for the outgoing Ambassador of Timor Leste to Australia (His Excellency Abel Guterres). Abel Guterres was very supportive of the ties between Tasmania and Timor-Leste that originated during World War II when Sparrow Force (the majority of which were from the Tasmanian 2/40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion) together held up a Japanese invasion for three weeks, preventing an invasion of Darwin.

**4.37. February**

- A Council officer attended a reception hosted by Government House to welcome the Japanese research vessel, Umitaka Maru. The Umitaka Maru is a training and research vessel operated by Tokyo University of Marine Science & Technology that conducts annual research in Antarctic waters.

**4.38. March – July 2020**

- A global pandemic was declared by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2020. This has had a significant impact on the international relations program at the City of Hobart.
- Regular contact was maintained, particularly with the cities of Fuzhou and Yaizu during that time.

**4.39. August**

- The City of Hobart honoured its 42 year old sister city relationship with Yaizu in Japan by collaborating with the Australia Japan Society (Tasmania) and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (TSO) Chorus to mark the 75th anniversary of the first atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima.

49 students from 10 schools across Hobart reflected on the grievous anniversary and offered Haikus (poems of ancient Japanese origin) to contribute their imaginings for world peace. The event was staged at the Loop where a short film created by the City of Hobart was viewed. Students read their Haikus and the TSO chorus performed the Hiroshima Peace Song created by Yoshio Shigezono. More information is available via the [City of Hobart website](#).

**Other Meetings, Events and Projects****International Relations Measurement System**

- 4.40. Council officers met with Emeritus Professor Peter Frappell approximately four times since October 2019 to provide feedback on the measurement system being developed to inform Council decision making on international matters. A demonstration of this measurement tool will take place at this Economic Development and Communication Committee.

**Antarctic Gateway Cities Project**

- 4.41. Regular meetings and email exchanges have occurred over the last 15 months between officers involved in the University of Western Sydney and UTAS led Antarctic Gateway Cities Project. The City of Hobart has committed \$20,000 per annum cash and \$20,000 in kind per annum for the three years ending 2019–20.

This project that will draw to a close in October 2020 has presented the City of Hobart with an opportunity to connect with the gateway cities of Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Christchurch and Cape Town. Council supported an invitation to the Mayors of all gateway cities to visit Hobart in July / August 2020 to coincide with the SCAR / COMNAP conferences and events. During this time, it was intended that the Mayors would take part in a workshop to explore potential collaborations. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 these activities were cancelled.

Early discussions however are being had about the potential of discussing a 'charter of principles' setting out the nature of a renewed relationship. The Antarctic Cities project group has drafted a charter for discussion.



Additionally, a key element of the project was the development of an [Antarctic Youth Coalition](#). A youth ambassador from each gateway city was selected via a competitive process to journey together to Antarctica. This group now on a voluntary basis is working towards a mission it developed during the expedition.

*"To build a network of young custodians across five Antarctic gateway cities, advocating for Antarctic's future, by promoting sustainable communities and connected urban identities."*



The Lord Mayor and Director of Community Life took part in a virtual meeting in July to hear more from the coalition including how the Council may support it. Four out of the five ambassadors attended the meeting from locations around the world, in addition to the Director of the Australia Antarctic Division, the Christchurch Antarctic Office and Antarctic Tasmania.

- 4.42. Officers attend the following meetings / events in relation to the City's international relationships:
  - 4.42.1. Approximately four of the monthly Abruzzese Association Committee meetings per year to discuss the sister city relationship and provide information on activities taking place in Hobart's other international relationships through the year.
  - 4.42.2. Hobart – Yaizu Sister City Committee. The City of Hobart coordinates this meeting quarterly. This meeting occurs more often in the build-up to the visit from students travelling from Yaizu in July.

## 5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. It is proposed that all major activities relating to the City of Hobart's international relationships (existing and potential) are paused until March 2021.
- 5.2. The maintenance of relationships that requires only officer time should take place although it is acknowledged that the focus of the Economic Development Unit in the short term is to support local businesses.

## 6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. Delivery against the IRAP is in line with Hobart: *A community vision for our island capital* and *Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-29*, particularly:

4.3.6 *We value pilgrimage – the choice to explore places beyond our island. Those who stay elsewhere take our culture to the world. Those who return bring new ideas and experiences with them, which we can use to enrich and evolve our own thinking.*

4.3.7 *We embrace those who have moved to Tasmania from elsewhere and work together for better economic outcomes*

Delivery against the current IRAP and continued improvement with respect to the way in which the City of Hobart measures the value of its international relationships is in line with the following goal within the *Capital City Strategic Plan (2015 - 2025)*:

Goal 1 - Economic Development, Vibrancy and Culture

*"City growth vibrancy and culture comes when everyone participates in city life".*

- 1.1.2 *Support the University of Tasmania's continued growth within the city.*
- 1.1.5 *Implement the City of Hobart's Economic Development Strategy.*
- 1.1.6 *Develop relationships with other cultural and educational institutions as opportunities arise.*
- 1.2.2 *Partner with stakeholders to promote Hobart as a safe and culturally receptive city with a quality urban and natural environment.*
- 1.2.3 *Develop a policy position on international relations.*
- 1.2.4 *Support the Council's existing sister city relationships with Yaizu, L'Aquila and Xi'an and respond to new opportunities.*



## **7. Financial Implications**

### **7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result**

- 7.1.1. Proposals in this report have no financial implications for this year's operating result. The only resource expended in maintaining international relationships between now and March 2021 will be existing officer time.

### **7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result**

- 7.2.1. Should there be an earlier than anticipated remedy to the current pandemic, a review in March 2021 will allow officers to incorporate international relations activities into the 2021–22 budget. This is assuming the Council is in a stronger financial position than it is currently and that existing resources are not being re-directed into other activities such as supporting small businesses or activating the city etc.

### **7.3. Asset Related Implications**

- 7.3.1. None.

## **8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 8.1. The International Relations Action Plan is a non-binding document. The nature of friendship / sister city relationships are also non-binding. As such, there will be no negative legal implications from the recommendations in this report.
- 8.2. There is a risk that the pausing of major international relations activities could hinder current or potential relationships. Given the financial position of the Council and situations beyond the scope of local government such as international travel however, it is believed that other cities will be understanding of the recommendations in this report. Council officers are reaching out to cities with which Hobart has relationships or early dialogues, as well as local communities and stakeholders that underpin these relationships to ensure they still feel as connected as is possible.

## **9. Environmental Considerations**

- 9.1. Given that very limited aviation travel is taking place at present, the Council's current international relationships are having no negative impact on the environment.
- 9.2. The city continues to investigate opportunities with existing and potential friendship / sister cities that will create positive environmental outcomes such as increased knowledge or investment. Examples of this are the potential relationship with Jiri in Nepal and Incheon in South Korea.

Jiri is focussed on developing into a green city and has introduced policies to ban plastics, control infrastructure development and improve accessibility.

Incheon is particularly interested in attracting investment in a number of industries including the hydrogen economy (low carbon). This is also something the Tasmanian Government are seeking to develop, with announcements made on 2 March 2020 that \$50M is to be invested into a 'Hydrogen Power Plan' for the state.

#### **10. Social and Customer Considerations**

- 10.1. It is of social importance that the City of Hobart fosters a diverse selection of international relationships based on geography, industry and nature of outcomes (community, culture, economic).
- 10.2. This report is not aiming to undermine the importance of the City's international relationships but given budgetary and travel constraints is advocating for a pause in significant activities until March 2021 when the impact of COVID-19 can once again be considered.
- 10.3. Given the often high costs associated with international relationships, particularly in travel. It is felt that any travel if restrictions allowed over the next six months would be insensitive. This report recommends that the focus of the Economic Development Unit (as has been the case since the pandemic was declared in March 2020) should be on supporting local businesses until the situation can be re-appraised in March 2021.

#### **11. Marketing and Media**

- 11.1. When smaller activities have taken place such as the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, the City has ensured it has maximised the opportunity to spread the word through the community. In this case, the event was covered by Win News and the City of Hobart has published information on the corporate website.
- 11.2. The Economic Development Unit has taken the opportunity to promote the activities undertaken to date and planned in support of local businesses. An article will be included in Capital City News which goes out to every rate payer in the LGA (circulation approximately 30,000).

#### **12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

- 12.1. A number of stakeholders affected by the proposals in this report have been consulted. These are:
  - Timor Leste Friendship Network.
  - Founder of Bottle for Botol.
  - Honorary Consul General of Nepal in New South Wales.
  - Indian Cultural Society of Tasmania.

**13. Delegation**

13.1. This matter is one for the Council.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Lucy Knott  
**SENIOR ADVISOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**



Luke Doyle  
**MANAGER ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT &  
STRATEGY**



Tim Short  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE**

Date: 21 August 2020  
File Reference: F20/40406

Attachment A: International Relations Action Plan 2018  
Attachment B: August 2020 Letter from Mayor of Jiri re: COVID-19

## **7. COMMITTEE ACTION STATUS REPORT**

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### **7.1 Committee Actions - Status Report**

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A report indicating the status of current decisions is attached for the information of Elected Members.

***RECOMMENDATION***

***That the information be received and noted.***

Delegation: Committee

Attachment A: EDCC Status Report - Mar 2021

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – STATUS REPORT**  
**OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING**  
**March 2021**

Ref	Meeting	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
1	<b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF SALAMANCA SQUARE, MATHERS PLACE, COLLINS COURT, WELLINGTON COURT AND ELIZABETH MALL</b>  Council, 9/5/2016, Item 15	That terms and conditions of use be created for Mathers Place, Collins Court, Wellington Court and Salamanca Square in the context of the review of the Highways By-Law and the development of a city activation framework, and that the terms and conditions of use for Elizabeth Mall be also reviewed, for presentation to the Council for endorsement.	Director Community Life	<p>Complete</p> <p>The terms and conditions for the identified spaces have been amended based on the updated Public Spaces By-Law which replaced the Highways By-Law.</p> <p>The updated terms and conditions for the use of Mathers Place, Collins Court, Wellington Court and Salamanca Square will be reviewed as part of a new Activation Framework, which will be presented to the Council at the earliest opportunity.</p>

Ref	Meeting	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
2	<p><b>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REVIEW</b></p> <p>Council, 07/09/2020, Item 12</p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – POTENTIAL NEW RELATIONSHIPS</b></p> <p>Council, 02/12/2019, Item 16</p> <p><b>TIMOR-LESTE RELATIONSHIP UPDATE</b></p> <p>Council, 02/12/2019, Item 19</p> <p><b>EXPLORATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS</b></p> <p>Council, 01/04/2019, Item 12</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic decisions relating to existing and new international relationships be deferred, to be considered in March 2021.</li> <li>2. Major operational activities relating to existing and potential new international relationships be paused until March 2021.</li> </ol>	Director Community Life	A report on this matter is listed on the agenda.

Ref	Meeting	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
3.	<b>COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN</b>  Council, 17/12/2020, Item 15	That: 1. The Council endorse the City of Hobart Covid-19 Economic Response and Recovery Framework and Action Plan 2020-22, marked as Attachment A to item 4.1 of the Special Economic Development and Communications Committee agenda of 17 December 2020.  2. The Council note the endorsement of the Covid-19 Economic Response and Recovery Framework and Action Plan 2020-22 by the Hobart Economic Recovery Business Consultative Group.	Director Community Life	1. Complete  2. Complete
	<b>COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY</b>  Council, 10/08/2020, Item 15	3. The action plan be updated in mid-2021 following internal and external engagement including with the Business Consultative Group in February 2021.  4. The Lord Mayor, Chair of the Economic Development and Communications Committee and Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee seek to coordinate a meeting with relevant Australian and/or Tasmanian Government representatives to inform economic recovery planning.		3. Officers are progressing this matter.  4. The Lord Mayor will raise this request directly with the Premier during their next quarterly meeting. Officers will maintain contact with departmental representatives, with respect to any updates to the recommendations made by PESRAC.

## **8. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

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Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.  
File Ref: 13-1-10

An Elected Member may ask a question without notice of the Chairman, another Elected Member, the General Manager or the General Manager's representative, in line with the following procedures:

1. The Chairman will refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the Terms of Reference of the Council committee at which it is asked.
2. In putting a question without notice, an Elected Member must not:
  - (i) offer an argument or opinion; or
  - (ii) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.
3. The Chairman must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.
4. The Chairman, Elected Members, General Manager or General Manager's representative who is asked a question may decline to answer the question, if in the opinion of the respondent it is considered inappropriate due to its being unclear, insulting or improper.
5. The Chairman may require a question to be put in writing.
6. Where a question without notice is asked and answered at a meeting, both the question and the response will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
7. Where a response is not able to be provided at the meeting, the question will be taken on notice and
  - (i) the minutes of the meeting at which the question is asked will record the question and the fact that it has been taken on notice.
  - (ii) a written response will be provided to all Elected Members, at the appropriate time.
  - (iii) upon the answer to the question being circulated to Elected Members, both the question and the answer will be listed on the agenda for the next available ordinary meeting of the committee at which it was asked, where it will be listed for noting purposes only.



## **9. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee resolve by majority that the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to regulation 15(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* because the items included on the closed agenda contain the following matters:

- Confirm the minutes of the Closed portion of the meeting
- Questions without notice in the Closed portion

The following items are listed for discussion:-

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Item No. 1 | Minutes of the last meeting of the Closed Portion of the Council Meeting |
| Item No. 2 | Consideration of supplementary items to the agenda                       |
| Item No. 3 | Indications of pecuniary and conflicts of interest                       |
| Item No. 4 | Questions Without Notice   |