



International Relations Committee

Minutes

10 June 2024

Committee Terms of Reference

1. *To facilitate, support and promote cultural, sporting, education, tourism and economic partnership opportunities between Bunbury and its international partners including but not limited to its Sister City and Friendship City relationships.*
2. *To encourage, through Sister City and other international relationships, greater understanding and friendship between City of Bunbury residents and participating cities and in doing so contribute to the mutual benefit of all communities involved.*
3. *To foster the involvement of commercial, educational and community organisations in various aspects of international relationships and to encourage the development of special links with overseas counterparts.*
4. *To promote Bunbury's international relationships to the wider community, in turn increasing community awareness and participation.*
5. *To advise Council on issues of importance and provide ideas for extending affiliations and developing new international partnerships.*
6. *To ensure all communications to Mayors of Bunbury's international partners are undertaken through the Office of the Mayor.*

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Noongar Wardandi people and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their culture; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Vision

Bunbury: welcoming and full of opportunities.

Organisational Values

#WEARECOB

WE ARE COMMUNITY

We are one team
We keep each other safe
We display empathy and respect
We have fun and celebrate our successes
We work together to achieve great outcomes

WE ARE OPEN

We are open to opportunities
We actively listen and think things through
We are inclusive and treat everyone equally
We are honest and open in our communications
We are open to feedback to improve our performance

WE ARE BRAVE

We lead the change, we own it
We trust and empower each other
We have the difficult conversations early
We hold ourselves to the highest standard
We have the courage to improve and simplify

International Relations Committee

Minutes

10 June 2024

Members of the public to note that recommendations made by this committee are not final and will be subject to adoption (or otherwise) at a future meeting of the Bunbury City Council.

1. Declaration of Opening

Cr Todd Brown declared the meeting open at 4:09 PM

2. Disclaimer

Not applicable to this committee.

3. Announcements from the Presiding Member

Nil

4. Attendances

Committee Members:

Member Name	Representing
Cr Todd Brown	Council Representative
Cr Parthasarathy Ramesh	Council Representative
Felicity Farnell	Community Representative
Valda Smith	Community Representative
Helena Sahn	Community Representative
Gai Chesworth	Community Representative

Ex-officio Members (non-voting):

Member Name	Title
Tony Fletcher	South West Development Commission Representative
Wilson Msiska	Edith Cowan University SW Campus Representative

Support Staff (non-voting):

Name	Title
Shae Phillips	Manager, Communication & Place Activation
Juaini Taylor	Team Leader, Place Activation
Qing Ye	International Relations Officer

4.1. Apologies

Ms Julie Xiong, Ms Jenny Byatt and Mr Mark Viskovich were apologies for the meeting.

4.2. Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

5. Declaration of Interest

IMPORTANT: Committee members to complete a “Disclosure of Interest” form for each item on the agenda in which they wish to disclose a financial/proximity/impartiality interest. They should give the form to the Presiding Member before the meeting commences. After the meeting, the form is to be forwarded to the Administration Services Section for inclusion in the Corporate Financial Disclosures Register.

Nil

6. Public Question Time

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the International Relations Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2024 have been circulated.

Recommendation

The Minutes of the International Relations Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2024 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority Required

Outcome of the Meeting held 10 June 2024

The recommendation (as printed) was moved by Mrs Felicity Farnell, and seconded by Cr Parthasarathy Ramesh.

The Presiding Member put the motion to the vote, and it was adopted to become the Committee's decision on the matter.

Committee Decision

That the International Relations Committee note the appointment of Committee member Gai Chesworth, as a community representative and will serve out the remainder of the term, ending in October 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
6 votes "for" / Nil votes "against"

8. Petitions, Presentations and Deputations

8.1. Petitions

Nil

8.2. Deputations

Nil

9. Method of Dealing with Agenda Business

Items are dealt with in the order that they appear.

10. Reports

10.1 Appointment of an International Relations Committee Member

File Ref:	COB/523		
Applicant/Proponent:	Internal Report		
Responsible Officer:	Qing Ye, International Relations Officer		
Responsible Manager:	Shae Phillips, Manager, Communication & Place Activation		
Executive:	Alan Ferris, Chief Executive Officer		
Authority/Discretion	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Review	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive/Strategic	<input type="checkbox"/> Quasi-Judicial	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Purposes	
Attachments:	Nil		

Summary

This report is presented to the International Relations Committee to advise the appointment of committee member Gai Chesworth, as a community representative and serve out the remainder of the term, ending in October 2025.

Executive Recommendation

That the International Relations Committee note the appointment of Committee member Gai Chesworth, as a community representative and will serve out the remainder of the term, ending in October 2025.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Strategic Relevance

Pillar	Performance
Aspiration	Leading with purpose and robust governance.
Outcome 13.	A leading local government.
Objective 13.1	Provide strong, accountable leadership and governance.

Regional Impact Statement

The International Relations Committee aims to facilitate, support and promote cultural, sporting, education, tourism and economic partnership opportunities between Bunbury and its international partners. Membership on the committee is open to people from the Greater Bunbury region.

Background

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 April 2024, Council endorsed the appointment of the candidate outlined in Confidential Appendix 10.2.1-A to the International Relations Committee to fill the one (1) vacant community representative position and serve out the remainder of the term, ending in October 2025.

Council Policy Compliance

Nil

Legislative Compliance

Subdivision 2 of Division 2 of Part 5 of the Local Government Act 1995 deals with establishment of committees and their meetings.

Officer Comments

Ms Chesworth presents solid experience and background, including participation in Launceston’s Mayoral Delegation visit to its sister city Ikeda, and her multiple personal trips to Japan. The City of Bunbury has a close sister city relationship of over 31 years with Setagaya, Japan, and the applicant’s passion and experience with delegation exchanges with Japan will be valuable to the committee.

Analysis of Financial and Budget Implications

There are no financial or budgetary implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Community Consultation

Not applicable

Councillor/Officer Consultation

Not applicable

Applicant Consultation

Not applicable

Timeline: Council Decision Implementation

Not applicable

Outcome of the Meeting held 10 June 2024

The recommendation (as printed) was moved by Ms Helena Sahm, seconded by Mrs Valda Smith.

The Presiding Member put the motion to the vote, and it was adopted to become the Committee’s decision on the matter.

Committee Decision

That the International Relations Committee note the appointment of Committee member Gai Chesworth, as a community representative and will serve out the remainder of the term, ending in October 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
6 votes “for” / Nil votes “against”

10.2 International Relations Committee – Update on International Engagement Programs, June 2024

File Ref:	COB/523
Applicant/Proponent:	Internal Report
Responsible Officer:	Qing Ye, International Relations Officer
Responsible Manager:	Shae Phillips, Manager, Communication & Place Activation
Executive:	Alan Ferris, Chief Executive Officer
Authority/Discretion	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Executive/Strategic <input type="checkbox"/> Quasi-Judicial <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Purposes
Attachments:	Nil

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the activities of the International Relations Office.

Executive Recommendation

That the International Relations Committee:

Note the information contained within this Report.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Strategic Relevance

Pillar	Prosperity
Aspiration	A strong and diversified economy
Outcome 10.	The premier city of regional Western Australia
Objective 10.1	Build awareness and recognition that Bunbury is a great place in which to live, work, study, holiday, play and invest.

Regional Impact Statement

N/A.

Background

There are ongoing programs run by the City of Bunbury through our long term formal sister and friendship city relationships, as well as events and programs guided by the International Relations Department strategic framework.

Council Policy Compliance

There is no Council Policy applicable to this Report.

Legislative Compliance

Local Government Act 1995.

Officer Comments

The following outlines ongoing communication with our Sister and Friendship Cities partners, alongside local events, activities, and programs:

Japan

- **Mayoral Appreciation Reception:**

Mayor Miguel acknowledged the contributions of recently resigned IRC members and presented a certificate to Ms Pauline Vukelic for her long-standing contribution to the committee over the past thirty years at the appreciation reception on 15 April 2024.

- **Tokyo Talent Tour:**

This is the first outbound student delegation from Bunbury to Setagaya after a four-year pause due to the Covid pandemic. 13 students from 10 different schools, and three chaperones were selected to form the Tokyo Talent Tour this year. The student delegation comprised student representatives from:

- Adam Road Primary School
- Bunbury Catholic College
- Bunbury Senior High School
- Carey Park Primary School
- Clifton Primary School
- Dardanup Primary School
- Eaton Community College
- Home School
- Leschenault Catholic Primary School
- Treendale Primary School

- **Local Government Exchange:**

Three City of Setagaya International Affairs Office staff members will visit Bunbury for a two-day local government exchange in July to enhance mutual understanding and goodwill collaboration.

China

- **Online Emerging Entrepreneurs Panel Discussion:**

The City of Bunbury connected the Bunbury Geographe Economic Alliance with the Jiaxing Young Entrepreneur Association to co-host the Online Emerging Entrepreneurs Panel Discussion on 15 May. This knowledge exchange event provided a platform to promote Bunbury and highlight future-facing industries poised for trade and technological advancements. Businesses from both cities shared industry trends and opportunities for closer collaboration, focusing on a) advanced manufacturing, b) renewables, c) tourism, and d) creative technology.

- **Ezhou Mayoral Business Delegation Visit:**

The City of Ezhou has constructed a cargo-focused airport and an international free-trade aviation hub, making it only the fourth of its kind globally and the first in Asia. On 24 June, the mayor of Ezhou will lead a business delegation, which includes high-level representatives from the airport and S.F. Express, to visit Bunbury. The purpose of this visit is to explore opportunities for collaboration in international trade and logistics.

International

- **Sister Cities Australia Forum:**

The City of Bunbury International Relations Office submitted an expression of interest to host the 2024 Sister Cities Australia Forum; however, the bid was unsuccessful.

Analysis of Financial and Budget Implications

There are no financial or budgetary implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Community Consultation

Nil

Councillor/Officer Consultation

Not applicable

Applicant Consultation

Not applicable

Timeline: Council Decision Implementation

Not applicable

Outcome of the Meeting held 10 June 2024

The recommendation (as printed) was moved by Mrs Felicity Farnell, seconded by Ms Helena Sahn.

The Presiding Member put the motion to the vote, and it was adopted to become the Committee's decision on the matter.

Committee Decision

That the International Relations Committee noted the report tabled by the International Relations Officer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
6 votes "for" / Nil votes "against"

11. Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

12. Questions from Members

12.1. Response to Previous Questions from Members taken on Notice

Nil

12.2. Questions from Members

Cr Todd Brown asked the following questions.

Question 1:

The presentation during the meeting advised that the Ezhou delegation would arrive on 24 June, while the meeting Agenda indicated mid-June. Please confirm the date.

Answer:

The International Relations Officer confirmed that the Ezhou delegation will visit Bunbury on 24 June 2024.

Question 2:

Has the City arranged anything for the Ezhou delegation?

Answer:

Yes, the International Relations Office has been collaborating with the Mayor's Office and external stakeholders to arrange a Welcome Luncheon for this mayoral business delegation. Further details of the tour logistics are due to be confirmed before formal invitations can be sent to key local stakeholders. Additionally, Mayor Miguel will accompany the site visits in Bunbury.

Cr Parthasarathy Ramesh asked the following question.

Question 3:

What is the Sister City Australia Forum?

Answer:

This forum was formally a two/ three-day conference but has been a one-day event in recent years. Bunbury hosted this event twice before. With over a hundred cities across Australia having sister and/or friendship cities, this event allows international engagement practitioners from those cities to share their insights.

Mrs Felicity Farnell asked the following questions.

Question 4:

Is there any engagement opportunity for the International Relations Committee members to get involved in the Local Government Exchange event?

Answer:

Yes, the International Relations Office has secured the budget and proposed to the visitors – three staff members from the City of Setagaya International Affairs Office – to have a dinner gathering with the International Relations Committee members. It is highly possible to have a dinner on either 11 or 12 July, subject to the visitors' acceptance, as they may have personal plans.

Question 5:

What does "Local Government Exchange" mean?

Answer:

Different countries have various government structures, and a local government exchange provides an opportunity for the visiting International Affairs Office staff members from Setagaya to learn about the local government authority system in Western Australia and discover best practices and initiatives in Bunbury. Typically, a sister city mayoral delegation exchange is led by the mayor or mayoress and endorsed by the council. However, this visit has not yet received endorsement from the Mayor's Office of Setagaya. Therefore, the City of Bunbury International Relations Office is organising this type of event for the delegation. The content of the itinerary will be modified if Mayor Hosaka from Setagaya later endorses it as a mayoral delegation visit.

Question 6:

There have been multiple restructures to the International Relations Office. Is there any assurance that no further restructuring will occur in the next 12 months?

Answer:

Unfortunately, the City are unable to guarantee further organisational restructures. Only the CEO of a local government authority has the power to make restructuring decisions. However, such decisions will not affect the City's commitment to our sister and friendship city relationships.

Question 7:

Can the Committee's concern about the potential negative impacts of frequent restructuring in the International Relations portfolio be noted in the minutes?

Answer:

Yes, this concern from the Committee will be recorded in the minutes.

13. Urgent Business

Nil

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next formal committee meeting will be held on 2 September 2024.

15. Close of Meeting

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 4:40 PM.