



***Draft -International
Engagement Policy***

Version 1

T 02 4921 0333 F 02 4958 7257 E COUNCIL@LAKEMAC.NSW.GOV.AU

126-138 MAIN ROAD SPEERS POINT NSW 2284 BOX 1906 HUNTER REGION MAIL CENTRE NSW 2310

LAKEMAC.COM.AU

	<p>Council Policy</p> <p>Draft - LMCC International Engagement Policy</p>	
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Policy

1 Scope

This policy is to guide the decision making in establishing and maintaining international relationships and guidelines on the types of international (and national) relationships which Council will enter into to promote educational, cultural, trade and sporting exchanges.

2 Objectives

The objective of this policy is to establish, manage and evaluate international opportunities that achieve long term economic and community benefits for the City of Lake Macquarie.

Council is committed to supporting international (and national) relationships provided there is evidence that the community (including the local business community) is prepared to actively support and participate in the relationship.

3 Policy Statement

The policy is focused on achieving positive and tangible benefits for the City's residents and businesses including:

- Support the Council's strategic vision
- Assist in fostering export and investment opportunities for the City's businesses
- A greater understanding by residents of other international cultures
- Raise the profile of Lake Macquarie internationally as an attractive city and a great place to work, invest, visit, do business and live
- Enhance opportunities for international dialogue.

These benefits will be achieved through relationships with Federal and State Government agencies, businesses, community organisations and residents.

International relations activities undertaken, including the hosting of visiting international delegations, must support policy objectives and provide tangible benefits for the City and Council.

Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to Councillors and relevant Council teams and officers.

Principles

All international relationships must fit with the Council's strategic vision.

New economic partnerships or projects should be aligned with the common priorities and objectives as agreed between the Council and its international relations stakeholders (i.e. local business, tourism, education and community leaders)

New international relationships should be assessed on their potential to provide demonstrable benefits for Lake Macquarie.

Decisions on allocating the Council's limited international relations resources must be made with confidence that the City derives sufficient value to justify Council engagement.

Lake Macquarie City Council can use a variety of mechanisms to ensure effective international relations. The use of these will be guided by the following:

I. *Focus international relations resources where Council has a distinct role and can make a difference*

Decisions on allocating the Council's international relations resources must be made with confidence that the ratepayer derives sufficient social, cultural or economic value to justify Council engagement (partly demonstrated by assessment of actual or likely stakeholder participation, engagement and resource commitment).

II. *Encourage local, regional, national and international collaboration*

A key principle underlying the policy is partnering with local, regional, national and international organisations, recognising that the Council cannot act alone in achieving the aims.

III. *City-to-city economic development partnerships and projects*

The purpose of economic development partnerships and projects is to facilitate investment in either ideas or capital with Lake Macquarie, to assist in the development of business and promotional opportunities for Lake Macquarie businesses in overseas countries, to promote people exchange (visitors, temporary and permanent migrants, and students) and to assist in the transfer of technical expertise and knowledge.

These would normally be a time-bound relationship, which is based on economic development objectives in which the city shares a significant interest with Lake Macquarie. This category could include exchanges of technology and expertise or common areas of business focus to justify an economic development partnership.

IV. *Leading, hosting and participating in international delegations*

Council supports and participates in both inward and outward delegations with a wide range of business, political, educational and cultural purposes. Support for, or initiation of, delegations will be determined by an assessment of their fit with this policy. It is acknowledged that official approaches by sending countries will be appropriately supported as part of generic hosting obligations.

Lake Macquarie will work with Aboriginal Local Land Councils as appropriate for formal delegations to ensure international visitors receive the best possible understanding.

Other mechanisms and relationships

This Policy has connections with other strategies and council activities including:

I. *Tourism promotion, attractions and events*

Council funds tourism promotion, major and iconic events and support facilities that draw visitors to the city.

II. *Cultural activities*

Council's community, recreational and cultural activities provide opportunities for people to engage and feel connected to the City.

III. *International connections and networks*

Council is a member of a number of international networks and institutions, and connects with others around the world across a variety of fields to share knowledge, information and expertise, combine efforts to resolve common problems and learn about best practice. These relationships are generally not city-to-city, are activity or industry focused, are generally informal, time-bound, and may not need formal ongoing relationships or commitments.

Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	(Legislation Name)	(Relationship/Context)
Related Policies (Council & Internal):	2018 – 2028 Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2018 – 2023 Destination Management Plan	Inclusion as strategic action Inclusion as strategic action
Related Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements:	(Document Name)	(Relationship/Context)
Standards COP's & Other References	(Standard, COP or Other References)	(Relationship/Context)

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition

Consultation (update for each version created)

Key Departments, Teams, Positions, Meetings:	Creativity Portfolio, Lifestyle and Wellbeing Portfolio, ex-members of the Lake Macquarie Sister City Committee. Policy referenced similar policy from Gold Coast City Council, Darwin City Council, Ipswich City Council, and Auckland City Council.
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Version History

Version No	Date Changed	Modified By	Details and Comments
1//	4/11/2019	J. Hemsley	Creation of initial draft.