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1. Statement

This policy aims to recognise the City of Ipswich as an attractive choice for international trade and cultural investment underpinned by sustainable industries, strong networks and the competitive advantages Ipswich can offer.

The City of Ipswich has a specific focus on the following priorities:

- Defence industry,
- Agri-business,
- Advanced manufacturing exports,
- Tourism and education.

The primary focus on international relationships is to be consistent with council's priorities and in compliance with Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

2. Purpose and Principles

The objective of this policy is to raise the profile of the City of Ipswich; establish business, government and cultural partnerships, export opportunities and inward investment from priority international markets. Through our Ipswich sister city and strategic relationships, the City of Ipswich will promote goodwill and civic diplomacy at the local government level.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan theme:

- Vibrant and Growing

4. Regulatory Authority

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *Advance Ipswich*
- *Ipswich City Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022*
- *Register of Fees and Charges*
- *Arts and Cultural Strategy 2018-2023*
- *Ipswich City Council Operational Plan*

5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

Through the International Relations Policy council will establish international relationships to enhance the economic and community development of the City of Ipswich.

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

- Linking key industries and businesses to align with current and potential export markets. Working with our current sister cities with a focus on ongoing education, export, investment and cultural representations.
- Providing strong representation of key industries to government trade and investment, institutions and bilateral agencies.
- Providing leadership, where appropriate, in the coordination of government, industry and community partners. Encouraging direct community links independent of local government in the spirit of citizen diplomacy.
- Providing recommendations on the establishment of new sister city agreements.
- Supporting inbound delegations which meet key industry and target market criteria in accordance with Council procedure EDM-003.
- Supporting businesses that are actively exporting or representing the city in target markets.
- Representing the economic and cultural interests of the city with relevant and proactive outbound delegations, either individually or as part of larger multi-party delegations.

Council seeks to achieve these key economic benefits from its international agreements and engagement activities and through relationships with Federal and State Government agencies, institutions, industry partners, businesses, and community organisations.

International relations activities undertaken, including the hosting of visiting international delegations, must support policy objectives and provide tangible benefits for the city and council. Visiting delegations must be cognisant of associated Ipswich City Council fees and charges and complete an international inbound delegation visit request form prior to arrival.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

This policy applies to City of Ipswich elected representatives, Ipswich City Council employees and contractors.

8. Key Stakeholders

- Office of the Mayor –Coordination and Performance
- Office of the CEO – Coordination and Performance
- Office of Economic Development – Community, Cultural and Economic Development

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

An evaluation of performance will be conducted following each inbound delegations against the policy. The policy will be reviewed for its ongoing strategic alignment to the Economic and Workforce Development Plan on an annual basis.

10. Definitions

N/A

11. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Community, Cultural and Economic Development) is the policy owner and the Economic Development Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.