

**ITEM 5. NAGOYA FESTIVAL AND 35TH ANNIVERSARY SISTER CITY
CELEBRATIONS**

FILE NO: S050647

SUMMARY

In 2015, Sydney and Nagoya, Japan celebrate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of a Sister City relationship between our two cities.

To mark this significant anniversary, the Mayor of Nagoya, Mr Takashi Kawamura, has invited the Lord Mayor to visit and participate in their most important annual event, the Nagoya Festival in October.

The second oldest of our six Sister City relationships, Nagoya is our strongest and most active association. Sydney and Nagoya signed a sister city relationship in 1980 and, since that time, have seconded staff trainees and supported reciprocal visits by school rugby union teams, bands and dance ensembles. The City also supports the student exchange agreement between educational authorities and is involved in the sister zoo relationship between Taronga Zoo and Nagoya Higashiyama Zoo.

Between 1986 and 2002, Nagoya annually seconded a staff member to the City of Sydney to gain experience in Australian local government, improve English language skills and to promote exchanges between the two cities. While working at City of Sydney, the trainee represented Nagoya on the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee.

An integral part of the Nagoya Festival each year is the Sister City Parade where each of Nagoya's Sister Cities are represented in a two hour parade, witnessed by an estimated 700,000 people. The City has sent official representatives twice in the last 10 years, in 2005 and 2010.

Community members of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee travel to Nagoya at their own expense each year to attend the Festival. This year at least 25 members and friends plan on attending.

In honour of the 35th anniversary, Mayor Kawamura also plans to visit Sydney from 1 to 4 November. Some of the proposed events around this celebration include a 'Nagoya Day' in Hyde Park, a Tree Planting Ceremony, a Reception and Mayoral Dinner and a Koala presentation to Nagoya Zoo at Taronga Zoo.

Given the significant attention that Nagoya is giving to this anniversary, it is important that the City of Sydney is officially represented at the Nagoya Festival.

As the Lord Mayor is unable to attend, it is proposed that the delegation is led by Councillor Jenny Green and Councillor Irene Doutney who will represent the Lord Mayor at any civic events. It is also recommended they be accompanied by one support staff person to provide assistance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse Councillor Jenny Green and Councillor Irene Doutney in representing the Lord Mayor and the City of Sydney at the Nagoya Festival from 16 October to 18 October 2015; and
- (B) note that Councillors Green and Doutney will provide a report to Council after the travel.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Invitation from Takashi Kawamura, Mayor of Nagoya

BACKGROUND

1. The linking of Sydney and Nagoya was first canvassed in the late 1970s by the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce. Sydney was receptive to the idea and a Memorandum stating the intention of both cities “to strengthen economic, educational and cultural exchanges” was signed in early 1980. Formal agreements were signed in September 1980.
2. The Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee was established in November 1980.
3. During the long relationship, the City and the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee have been involved in the following activities:
 - (a) donation of replica of anchor of HMS Sirius to Nagoya in 1989 to mark 10th anniversary;
 - (b) sending of Sydney schools rugby team to Nagoya for school matches in 1993;
 - (c) participation in the Sydney Fair in Nagoya in 1995 to mark the 15th anniversary;
 - (d) exchange of books between schools in Sydney and Nagoya in 2000 to mark 20th anniversary;
 - (e) the upgrade of the Nagoya Gardens in Hyde Park, completed and dedicated in 2005 to mark the 25th anniversary;
 - (f) participation in the Sister Cities Festival in Nagoya and ‘2005 World Expo’ held in Aichi Prefecture in 2005 to mark the 25th anniversary (attended by Lord Mayor Clover Moore);
 - (g) visit to Sydney by the Mayor Matsubura of Nagoya to celebrate the 25th anniversary. While in Sydney, the Lord Mayor and Mayor Matsubura discussed the donation of a Wollemi Pine to the Higashiyama Botanical Gardens in Nagoya, this eventuated in April 2006;
 - (h) organisation of a photographic exhibition, by award-winning Sydney photographer, Rick Stevens, depicting scenes from Taronga Zoo and Sydney, held in Nagoya during the 2006 Nagoya Festival in October;
 - (i) visit to Nagoya in October 2010 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship led by City Councillors Shayne Mallard and Irene Doutney;
 - (j) welcome for Mayor Takashi Kawamura, Assembly members and citizens’ group who visited Sydney in November 2010 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary;
 - (k) Liaison with Nagoya Higashiyama Zoo to secure an exhibition of photographs of that zoo’s animals as a gift to Taronga Zoo for their 90th birthday celebrations; and
 - (l) Sister Marathon Agreement between Sydney Running Festival and Nagoya City Marathon signed in Sydney on August 21, 2012.
4. Nagoya is located at the center of Honshu (the main island of Japan) with a population of 2.24 million. Nagoya plays an important role in Japan's economy – with traditional industries like ceramics and textiles as well as automobiles and aviation.

5. The Nagoya Festival is the biggest annual event in Nagoya. Held over a number of days, it includes a parade with more than 700 participants.
6. An integral part of the Nagoya Festival is the Sister City Parade where each of Nagoya's Sister Cities are represented in a two hour parade, witnessed by an estimated 700,000 people.
7. The City has sent official representatives to Nagoya twice in the last 10 years, in 2005 and 2010.
8. The Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee is made up of community members that include representatives from the Japan Local Government Centre, the Japan Foundation and Taronga Zoo.
9. Community members of the Committee travel to Nagoya at their own expense each year to attend the Festival. This year at least 25 members and friends plan on attending.
10. Mayor Kawamura is planning to visit Sydney from 1 to 4 November to mark the 35th anniversary. Some of the proposed events include a 'Nagoya Day' in Hyde Park, a Tree Planting Ceremony, a Reception and Mayoral Dinner and a Koala presentation to Nagoya Zoo at Taronga Zoo.
11. The City's guidelines for sister city relationships outline the program's main objectives, which are to:
 - (a) extend the hand of friendship overseas on a person-to-person basis;
 - (b) perpetuate an understanding between people and cultures;
 - (c) bring together similar interest groups in each city;
 - (d) provide a forum for the exchange of sister city experiences;
 - (e) extend the level of contacts through all sectors of the community; and
 - (f) develop economic, trade, cultural, educational and other beneficial exchanges.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

12. The City will need to cover air travel, accommodation, ground transport and incidentals, at an estimated average cost of \$7,000 per person.
13. Funds are available within existing operational budgets.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

14. The invitation includes official engagements for the period of Friday 16 October to Sunday 18 October 2015.

MONICA BARONE
Chief Executive Officer

Rod Kirkman, Manager Protocol