

**Subject: LMM 25/07/2023 - SISTER CITIES PROGRAM & REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

**MOTION:**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes its current adopted Sister City relationships with:
  - a. Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan;
  - b. Arcadia City, California, United States
  - c. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Northumberland, United Kingdom
  - d. Dubbo City Council, NSW, Australia.
2. Notes that requests have been received to enter similar relationships with both Berrigan Shire Council and Resen of North Macedonia.
3. Acknowledges the aim of such relationships is to promote and encourage friendship and cooperation between Local Governments, business leaders and the wider community, in addition to facilitating cultural exchange programs and economic development.
4. Develops a Council policy in regard to prospective sister city relationships, including, but not limited to, the following objectives, criteria and process for adoption:
  - a. **OBJECTIVES OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS**
    - i. Extend the hand of friendship nationally and internationally on a person-to-person basis, utilizing the resources of local government;
    - ii. Perpetuate an understanding between people at all levels and different countries and cultures;
    - iii. Bring together like-minded interest groups of each city;
    - iv. Provide a forum for the exchange of sister city experiences;
    - v. Promote knowledge and understanding and extend the level of contacts through all sectors of the community;
    - vi. Develop economic, trade, cultural, educational and other beneficial exchanges.
  - b. **CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF PROSPECTIVE CITIES**
    - i. That there exists significant historical, cultural, social or geographic similarities between Newcastle and the prospective city;
    - ii. That the prospective city is being governed on a democratic basis;
    - iii. That the prospective city has a positive human rights record;
    - iv. That the establishment of the proposed relationship will benefit specific strategic, national and/or regional interests;
    - v. That there exists significant community support for the proposed relationship;
    - vi. That any prospective international city relationship does not raise concerns with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, who shall be notified of any adopted international relationship;
    - vii. That sufficient funding is available for the administration of the relationship.
  - c. **PROCESS FOR ACCEPTANCE**
    - i. That a report be presented to the elected council with a recommendation based upon the abovementioned objectives and criteria;
    - ii. That acceptance or rejection of the proposed city relationship by a majority vote of the elected council;
    - iii. Notification of council's decision will be made to the prospective council by the City of Newcastle.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Email dated 25 May 2023 from Ambassador Bilijana Stefanovska Sekovska of North Macedonia on behalf of Mr Jovan Tozиеvski, Mayor of the City of Resen, North Macedonia.
2. Letter 29 April 2023 from Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor of Berrigan Shire Council.

Attachment 1:

**From:** Biljana Stefanovska  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 1:20 PM  
**Subject:** Initiative for sister-city relationship between Newcastle and Resen

Dear Madam Lord Mayor,

I thank you again for your time on 22 November 2022, when you accepted me on my visit to Newcastle. I enjoyed our discussion and sincerely believe that it opened the way for Newcastle and North Macedonia to explore numerous areas for co-operation for mutual benefit, including in cultural, sporting, academic and economic fields.

You will recall that one of the topics of our discussion was the possibility that Newcastle enters into a sister-city relationship with the Macedonian city of Resen. In this context, and following your interest in such an initiative, please be advised that the Embassy has taken various steps to advance the same. As a consequence, I'm very pleased to advise that the Mayor of the City of Resen (Mr Jovan Tozievski - <https://resen.gov.mk/gradonacanik>) has recently confirmed that he welcomes the potential for the entry into of a sister-city relationship between Newcastle and Resen.

The Council of the Municipality of Resen, on 26 April 2023, adopted a Decision to start the procedure for the twinning of the Municipality of Resen with the City of Newcastle. On the assumption that you wish to advance this matter, please be advised that the next relevant step would be that there is a similar official motion/decision to be adopted by the Newcastle Council. Upon the completion of that step we would continue with the preparation of a Protocol/Memorandum to be signed by the two City officials.

In the meanwhile, if you feel that it would be useful for you to understand more about Resen, you can do it at its official website - <https://resen.gov.mk>. As mentioned in our meeting, it is perhaps also worth noting that a significant proportion of the Macedonian community in Newcastle has its heritage in Resen and its surrounds.

I look forward to receiving your abovementioned official decision as soon as possible, and please be assured that you are welcome to contact me at any time to discuss any aspect of this initiative.

Kind regards,

**Biljana Stefanovska Sekovska**  
Ambassador

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Attachment 2:



Ref: KE:115

29 April 2023

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle, Ms Nuatali Nelmes  
Lord Mayor  
City of Newcastle  
PO Box 489  
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Nuatali

**City of Newcastle – Berrigan Shire Council Sister City Arrangement**

Following our meeting at Country Mayors in Sydney in February 2023 where we discussed the possibility of a Sister City arrangements between our two Councils, I thought I would follow up with this letter.

Berrigan Shire Council is interested in pursuing the creation of as Sister City relationship as we believe there is much we have to offer each other; both our similarities and our differences provide considerable opportunity for learning through our collective experiences.

I would very much hope we are able to commence this path to Sister Cityhood and have the opportunity to meet each other (all Councillors) in order to show case our own areas, provide insight into our major projects and develop innovative and collaborative ways to work with each other through this type of arrangement.

Should you require further information please contact our CEO, Ms Karina Ewer on either telephone 03 5888 5100 or email [karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Matthew Hannan  
**MAYOR**

Cc Mr Jeremy Bath  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Newcastle

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**Berrigan Shire Council**

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