

**ITEM 8 LORD MAYOR TRAVEL TO KAWASAKI CITY IN JAPAN**

Wollongong City Council has had a close Sister City Relationship with Kawasaki City since 1988. The proposed visit to Kawasaki City is an opportunity to reaffirm the Sister City Relationship and promote an ongoing programme for cooperation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Lord Mayor be approved to travel to Kawasaki City in Japan between 6 and 10 October 2025.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer + Business Integrity  
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

**BACKGROUND**

Wollongong City Council has had a close Sister City Relationship with Kawasaki City since 1988. It is Council's longest standing and most active international relationship which has promoted economic cooperation and enabled regular cultural exchanges.

Kawasaki City formally invited Wollongong City Council to attend their 100th year anniversary commemorations held in October 2024. Council could not attend due to the local government elections.

In late 2024 Council welcomed a delegation of leaders from Kawasaki City who visited Wollongong to learn more about the city, and to share information and knowledge around industry, emissions reduction, urban planning and environmental management.

The Kawasaki Junior Culture Art and Essay Prize has been running for the last 33 years bringing together students from Wollongong and Kawasaki. Recently the Sister City Relationship has assisted a local high school to formalise an exchange program with Ikuta Senior High School in Kawasaki.

**PROPOSAL**

The proposed visit to Kawasaki City is an opportunity to reaffirm the Sister City Relationship and promote an ongoing programme for cooperation. The Lord Mayor's proposed itinerary includes visits and information exchange on community infrastructure, housing, sustainability and energy, and port operations.

Kawasaki City Council staff are preparing an itinerary for the Lord Mayor pending approval to travel.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated costs associated with the proposed travel for the Lord Mayor is \$4,500. This includes airfares, accommodation and incidental costs. These costs can be met through the Sister Cities budget.

**CONCLUSION**

For more than 35 years, Wollongong has valued our Sister City Relationship with Kawasaki City in Japan. The proposed visit by the Lord Mayor follows an earlier invitation to mark Kawasaki's 100th anniversary in 2024. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our long-standing relationship and identify further opportunities to co-operate, share ideas and encourage business investment and economic activity between Wollongong and Kawasaki.