

C150 SISTER CITIES - 20TH ANNIVERSARY OYAMA, RENEWAL OF OYAMA CITY SISTER CITY AGREEMENT

EXE | 93/1/2 | #7920412

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Renew the formal Sister City relationship with the city of Oyama with a renewable term of a 10 year term, and that the Mayor sign an agreement on behalf of Cairns Regional Council during the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Sister Cities Program occurring this week.
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to notify the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the Foreign Arrangements Scheme of the renewal of the Sister City agreement with the city of Oyama.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Sister City – City of Oyama
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Cairns Regional Council has maintained a Sister City relationship with Oyama City, Japan since 2006, fostering strong cultural, educational and community connections between the two cities. The partnership was established to promote mutual understanding, goodwill and collaboration through student exchanges, community visits, cultural activities and opportunities for economic engagement.

Over nearly two decades, the relationship has strengthened people-to-people ties, particularly through youth and educational exchange programs, while supporting broader tourism, business and cultural links with Japan.

The Cairns-Oyama Sister City relationship continues to provide strategic benefits by enhancing international engagement, cultural understanding and long-term collaboration between the communities of both cities.

BACKGROUND:

The current sister city agreement with the city of Oyama was signed 15 May 2006.

Oyama was given city status on 31 March 1954. One of the major employers in the city is Komatsu making iron castings, diesel engines, for lift trucks and other hydraulic equipment. The population of Oyama is 165,528 inhabitants (2025).

Cairns Regional Council invited its Seven Sister Cities to Cairns as part of the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years, which marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Cairns in 1876. Delivered throughout 2026, the year-long program brings together Council, community organisations, businesses and residents to celebrate the city's rich history, diverse cultures, achievements and future aspirations.

COMMENT:

The renewal of the Sister City Agreement with Oyama City reaffirms Council's commitment to maintaining a longstanding and valued international relationship that has delivered cultural, educational and community benefits over many years. Continuing the agreement provides a framework for ongoing cooperation, strengthens goodwill between our communities, and preserves opportunities for future exchanges and collaborative initiatives.

OPTIONS:

Option one (recommended)

That Council

1. Renew the formal Sister City relationship with the city of Oyama with a renewable term of a 10 year term, and that the Mayor sign an agreement on behalf of Cairns Regional Council during the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Sister Cities Program occurring this week.
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to notify the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the Foreign Arrangements Scheme of the renewal of the Sister City agreement with the city of Oyama.

Option two

That Council does not renew the formal Sister City relationship with the city of Oyama with a renewable term of 10 year term, and that the Mayor does not sign an agreement on behalf of Cairns Regional Council during the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Sister Cities Program.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

The resigning of the City of Oyama Sister City agreement presents a low reputational risk, as Cairns has an existing relationship with Oyama since 2006.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The resigning of the Sister City agreement has no cost to Council and will not commit Council to any new expenditure.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The relationship with Oyama City has delivered significant cultural and community benefits by promoting international friendship and exchange opportunities for local residents. It has strengthened goodwill between the two communities and provided a platform for ongoing collaboration and cross-cultural understanding.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

Focus Four – Community and Culture, Fostering a vibrant, health and inclusive community.

Policy:

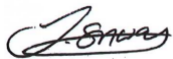
In alignment with the Sister Cities General Policy.

CONSULTATION:

City of Oyama
Lifestyle and Community Directorate

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed City of Oyama Sister City Agreement 2026 - 2036



Jessica Conway
Executive Officer



Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

SISTER CITY AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

CAIRNS

OYAMA

STATE OF QUEENSLAND,
AUSTRALIA

and

TOCHIGI PREFECTURE
JAPAN

The cities of Cairns, Queensland in Australia and Oyama, Tochigi Prefecture in Japan hereby signal their intent to establish lasting and friendly relations by formally entering into a Sister City relationship.

They agree to promote economic, educational, cultural and sport exchange to generate mutual understanding and goodwill leading to a better life for their citizens.

Through this agreement they will:

Communicate with one another on a frequent and continual basis to strengthen their links, always responsive to special needs and requests;

Identify and implement projects that will provide specific, meaningful contributions to the health, welfare and prosperity of the people of Cairns and Oyama; and

Regard the officials and citizens of one another's city with utmost respect, friendship and goodwill.

This agreement is effective from the day of signing until its 30th anniversary when the Mayors of Cairns and Oyama will confer to renew the bond for a fourth decade.

Signed on this twenty-seventh day of August 2026 in Cairns Queensland Australia

.....
Councillor Amy Eden

Mayor of Cairns City

Queensland, Australia

.....
Mr Masatomi Asano

Mayor of Oyama City

Tochigi, Japan