



## 8.5 SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP POLICY

Date Adopted	Next Review	Officer Responsible
8 December 2016	1 December 2019	Group Manager, Strategy

### Policy Purpose:

To guide decision making in relation to council's sister city relationships.

### Policy:

Rotorua Lakes Council (Council) has four sister cities: Beppu (Japan), Klamath Falls (USA), Lake Macquarrie (Australia) and Wuzhong District of Suzhou City, China. These relationships are long standing and were undertaken via the international Sister Cities programme between 1962 and 2000. The international programme seeks to foster communications across borders to promote the mutual exchange of ideas, people and materials in cultural, educational, youth, sports, municipal, professional and technical projects.

Over recent years Council has seen a decline in active contact with the majority of its sister cities. As part of the 2016 review all relationships are considered null and void unless contact is initiated and sustained by current sister cities and when that contact is considered beneficial to Council.

Proposed travel that relates to a sister city relationship needs to be supported by a business case that outlines the benefits of the travel against the following criterion:

The travel/activity must support council's vision, business objectives and aspirations for the future as encapsulated in the Long-term Plan, or

The travel/activity must support council's current priorities and/or flagship projects.

The business case to be approved by a recommendation from the CEO to council.

Generally travel costs of accompanying persons will not be paid for.

At the conclusion of the travel the elected representative/staff member is required to provide a written report to council.

This policy does not include travel by elected representatives that has been undertaken at the request of and paid for by other international, national or local organisations; including Rotorua Economic Development. Such travel may be undertaken at the discretion of the elected representative.