

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X014468 **DATE:** 22 August 2025

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.8 – International Travel - Nagoya Festival and 45th Anniversary Sister City Celebrations and C40 World Mayors Summit 2025

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

To provide Councillors with further information about the City of Sydney's Sister City relationship with Nagoya, Japan and proposed delegation events.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 18 August 2025, further information was sought on the following:

Benefits of attendance, program of events and civic occasions proposed on the Nagoya visit

To date the following events have been proposed for the visiting delegation to Nagoya:

- Welcome Reception - Friday, 17 October 2025 - A reception to welcome the delegations from Nagoya's sister and friendship cities on the eve of Nagoya Festival. The mayor, the city assembly chairperson, and many citizens of Nagoya will attend.
- Sister City Festival - Saturday, 18 October 2025 - A stage and booth event to introduce sister and friendship cities as part of the Nagoya Festival.
- Sister and Friendship Cities Parade - Sunday, 19 October 2025- A street parade in Central Nagoya. Representatives from Nagoya's sister and friendship cities will ride in the Nagoya Festival procession.

Given the significance of the 45th anniversary and the long-standing relationship between our 2 cities, it is important that the City of Sydney is officially represented at the Nagoya Festival.

Highlights of the history of this Sister City relationship

Some of the highlights of the history of the Sister City relationship between the City of Sydney and Nagoya include:

- between 1986 and 2003, Nagoya sent a staff member to work within various City of Sydney departments for 12 months on a knowledge exchange.
- donation of replica of anchor of HMS Sirius to Nagoya in 1989 to mark 10th anniversary of the Sister City relationship.
- the upgrade of the Nagoya Gardens in Hyde Park was completed and dedicated in 2005 to mark the 25th anniversary.
- participation in the Sister Cities Festival in Nagoya and '2005 World Expo' held in Aichi Prefecture and visit to Sydney by the Mayor Matsubura of Nagoya to celebrate the 25th anniversary in 2005.
- donation of a Wollemi Pine to the Higashiyama Botanical Gardens in Nagoya in April 2006.
- 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.
- visit to Nagoya in October 2010, and welcome for Mayor Takashi Kawamura, Assembly members and citizens 'group who visited Sydney in November 2010 to celebrate the 30th anniversary.
- 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.
- Sister Marathon Agreement between Sydney Running Festival and Nagoya City Marathon signed in Sydney on 21 August 2012.
- visit to Nagoya in October 2015, and welcome for Mayor Takashi Kawamura, Assembly members and citizens 'group who visited Sydney in March 2015 and November 2015 to celebrate the 35th anniversary.
- Nagoya City Assembly delegation's visit to Sydney in November 2016 for the 20-year anniversary between Sydney's Taronga Zoo and Nagoya's Higashiyama Zoo.
- book exchange and MOU signing for knowledge exchange between Custom House Library and Nagoya City Tsuruma Central Library in Sydney on 13 December 2023 for a period of two years to 2025.
- every year, the City hosts 20 students from Nagoya for an afternoon tea as part of their student exchange via the NSW Department of Education.

Events proposed for the visiting delegation to Sydney

To date the following events have been proposed for the visiting delegation to Sydney:

- A courtesy call with the Lord Mayor – Friday, 24 October 2025
- Tree planting and plaque unveiling in Nagoya Gardens - Hyde Park – Friday, 24 October 2025
- Reception at Town Hall – Friday, 24 October 2025
- Library Book Exchange – Sunday, 26 October 2025 (TBC)

Councillors will be invited to attend the above events apart from the Lord Mayor and Mayor courtesy call.

The delegation will also attend the Japan Expo in Centennial Hall where the Lord Mayor will speak on Saturday 25 October 2025. They will also have meetings and events with the Japanese Consulate, Tooronga Zoo and CLAIR (Japanese Local Government) while in Sydney.

The Japan Expo and International Kimono Competition 2025 will be held in Sydney Town Hall on Saturday 25 October 2025 and will feature exhibitors offering authentic Japanese products, the latest tourism information, cultural demonstrations, interactive workshops and stage performances.

Memo from Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

Approved

P. M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer