

SUBMISSION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

1.0 Primary file number

164/855/554/106

2.0 Title

Overseas Travel – Travel to Narashino, Japan, in November 2025

3.0 Issue/Purpose

To seek E&C approval for A/Senior Program Officer Community Partnerships, Community Conservation Partnerships, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services, to travel to Narashino, Japan, as part of the Affiliation Agreement between the City of Narashino and Council, in relation to the Yatsu-Higata Tidelands and the Boondall Wetlands, on or around 5 to 10 November 2025.

4.0 Proponent

Group Executive, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services

5.0 Submission prepared by

Natural Resource Integration Manager, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services

6.0 For E&C information or approval

For E&C approval

7.0 If for E&C approval, please provide details of the relevant delegation

Not applicable

8.0 Recommendation

That E&C approves the A/Senior Program Officer Community Partnerships, Community Conservation Partnerships, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services, to travel to Narashino, Japan, on or around 5 to 10 November 2025, as a delegate of Council as part of the Affiliation Agreement between the City of Narashino and Council, at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

9.0

I note the submission is being forwarded to E&C.



Tim Wright
GROUP EXECUTIVE
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND
SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES



Councillor Tracy Davis
CIVIC CABINET CHAIR
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE

10.0 Background

On 25 February 1998, Council entered into the Affiliation Agreement (the Agreement) with the City of Narashino, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, in relation to the Yatsu-Higata Tidelands (Yatsu Tidelands) and the Boondall Wetlands (refer Attachment B). The Agreement provides a framework for conserving Boondall Wetlands in Brisbane and Yatsu Tidelands in Narashino, to maintain a healthy and safe habitat for native wildlife including migratory shorebirds.

In 2017, Council and the City of Narashino agreed to a draft long-term plan for the Affiliation Agreement (the long-term plan). The Agreement and the draft long-term plan (refer Attachment C) require the signatories to share reporting on the status of their respective wetlands every 3 years. Staff from Council's Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre and Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Center also share information about their educational programming on an ad hoc basis.

Since the Agreement was established, with the exception of the COVID-19 pandemic period, annual exchange visits have taken place, alternating between Brisbane and Narashino. The exchange arrangement in the long-term plan includes members of the Queensland Wader Study Group who organise their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

A Narashino City delegation visited Brisbane in November 2024, and Council received an official invitation for a delegation to visit Narashino in 2025. Official duties of Council's delegate will include delivering speeches, participating in forums and attending meetings with local officials.

To reduce the frequency of future international travel under the Agreement, Council will be proposing to alternate in-person visits with virtual exchanges. If supported by our Narashino partners, Council's next in-person exchange to Japan is anticipated to take place in November 2029.

It is recommended that E&C approves the A/Senior Program Officer Community Partnerships, Community Conservation Partnerships, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services, to travel to Narashino, Japan, on or around 5 to 10 November 2025, as a delegate of Council as part of the Affiliation Agreement between the City of Narashino and Council, at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

List of Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summary of decision
- Attachment B: Affiliation Agreement between the City of Narashino and Council
- Attachment C: Draft Long-Term Plan for the Affiliation Agreement

11.0 Consultation

- General Manager, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability (26 May 2025)
- Chief Legal Counsel, City Legal, City Administration and Governance (20 May 2025)
- Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services (20 May 2025)
- A/General Manager, City Communication, City Administration and Governance (22 May 2025)

All are in agreement with the recommendation.

12.0 Options

- Option 1: Approve the recommendation
- Option 2: Not approve the recommendation
- Option 3: Amend the recommendation

Option 1 is the preferred option.

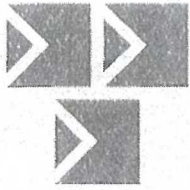
NB: If the officer's recommendation is not followed, then the reasons for departure from that recommendation should be recorded here.



ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE SUBMISSION
“OVERSEAS TRAVEL – TRAVEL TO NARASHINO, JAPAN, IN NOVEMBER 2025”
FROM THE MEETING OF MONDAY 18 AUGUST 2025

At the meeting of Monday 18 August 2025, the Establishment and Coordination Committee approved the A/Senior Program Officer Community Partnerships, Community Conservation Partnerships, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services, to travel to Narashino, Japan, on or around 5 to 10 November 2025, as a delegate of Council as part of the Affiliation Agreement between the City of Narashino and Council, at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

AFFILIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NARASHINO AND COUNCIL



AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

between

THE CITY OF NARASHINO, CHIBA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

and the

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

in relation to

THE YATSU TIDELAND AND THE BOONDALL WETLANDS

25 FEBRUARY 1998



Wetlands are one of the most important global environments to be valued because of their biological diversity and high productivity. Despite recognition of the importance of various functions of wetlands for human society, loss, destruction, degradation and misuse of wetlands continue in many areas of the world.

Given the ever increasing pressure on wetlands, it is essential that local government and its local communities promote wetland conservation to maintain these delicate and fragile environments and to restore global wetlands to a pristine condition so that they may be passed on from generation to generation.

The East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network was approved and inaugurated at the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention held in Brisbane City in March 1996. This network suggests that cooperation between each country involved and collaboration between the wetlands is important for the preservation of wetlands and the protection of migratory shorebirds. Furthermore, Recommendation 6.3, adopted at the Sixth Ramsar Convention calls for the consideration of how local people should participate in the preservation of wetlands.

Brisbane City (Queensland, Australia) and Narashino City (Chiba Prefecture, Japan) support internationally important wetlands, including those registered under the Ramsar Convention and wetlands forming part of the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network. Both cities will strive to preserve their own wetlands and protect waterbirds. In addition, both cities are aware of the importance of working together with the local community to protect wetlands and have a deep understanding of the significance of projects for the preservation of those wetlands being undertaken in a sister wetland relationship.

In recognition of the importance of protecting wetlands and the migratory shorebirds which depend upon these wetlands, the City of Narashino and the City of Brisbane have reached the following agreement to:

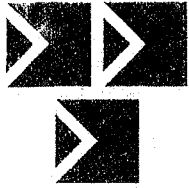
1. Support joint research and the exchange of research and study information in relation to wetland preservation and the protection of migratory shorebirds.
2. Support the exchange and reciprocal training of persons involved in wetland protection.
3. Support the exchange of students to increase their awareness and understanding through educational programs of the importance of protecting the natural environment.
4. Support the development of domestic and international educational projects for the preservation of wetlands and the protection of migratory shorebirds.
5. Support exchange visits by members of their respective local communities.

The above activities are entered into in the spirit of mutual benefit.

It is for the confirmation of the above that both mayors hereby affix their signatures to declare the Affiliation Agreement established in Brisbane City on Wednesday February 25 1998.

ISAMU ARAKI
MAYOR OF NARASHINO

JAMES SOORLEY
LORD MAYOR OF BRISBANE



千葉県習志野市、日本

および

クィーンズランド州ブリズベン市、オーストラリア

両市に於ける

谷津干潟およびブーンドル・ウエットランド

湿地提携に関する協定

1998年 2月25日



湿地は、そこに棲む生物の多様性や生産性のゆえに、地球上において最も尊重されるべき自然のひとつである。人類は、湿地の果たす様々な機能が人間社会にとって重要であることを理解しつつも、世界中の多くの地域で湿地の喪失・破壊・質の低下につながる誤った利用を続けている。

人間社会が湿地に及ぼす影響が増大している中で、湿地の繊細で壊れやすい環境を維持し、健康な湿地を地球規模で取り戻し、後世に引き継いでいくために、行政と地域の人々を中心に湿地の保全を推進していくことが不可欠となっている。

1996年3月に開催されたラムサール条約締約国会議（ブリズベン会議）において承認された東アジアからオーストラリア地域・シギ・チドリ類湿地保全ネットワークは、湿地と渡り鳥の保護において各国の湿地間協力の必要性を示唆している。また、同会議で採択された勧告6.3は湿地の保全を行う上で「地域の人々の参加をいかにすべきか」を求めている。

国際的に重要な湿地であるラムサール条約登録湿地及び東アジアからオーストラリア地域・シギ・チドリ類湿地保全ネットワーク参加地を擁する、オーストラリア国クィーンズランド州ブリズベン市と日本国千葉県習志野市は、自ら湿地の保全と、水鳥の保護に努めるとともに、湿地保全と水鳥の保護が地域の人々の参加のもとに行われることの必要性を認識し、加えてこれらの事業が両市間で行われることの意義を深く理解した。

そこで、湿地及び湿地に依存する渡り鳥（シギ・チドリ類）の保護の重要性を深く認識し、習志野市とブリズベン市は、以下の事に合意した。

1. 湿地の保全と渡り鳥（シギ・チドリ類）の保護を目的とした、湿地間の調査及び情報の交換。
2. 両湿地の保護に携わるスタッフの交換及び研修の支援。
3. 子供達の自然保護の大切さに対する認識と理解を高める事を目的とした、子供達の交流の支援。
4. 湿地の保全と渡り鳥の保護を目的とした、国内外に向けた啓発事業の展開。
5. 両市に於ける、それぞれの地域の人々による交換訪問の支援。

上記の活動は、相互利益の精神に基づくものとする。

上記の事柄は、1998年2月25日（水曜日）ブリズベン市に於いて、両市市長による署名により提携同意が樹立された。

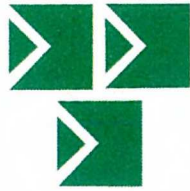
荒木 勇

荒木 勇
習志野市市長

James Dooley

ジェームス・ソーリー
ブリズベン市市長

DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN FOR THE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT



THE LONG-TERM PLAN (DRAFT) for the AFFILIATION AGREEMENT
between **THE CITY OF NARASHINO, CHIBA PREFECTURE, JAPAN**
and **BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**
in relation to **YATSU HIGATA TIDELANDS AND BOONDALL WETLANDS**

BACKGROUND

Wetlands are one of the most important global environments, valued for their biological diversity and high productivity. Despite recognition of the importance of various functions of wetlands for human society, the loss, destruction and misuse of wetlands continues in many areas of the world. In light of the ever-increasing pressure on wetlands, and in order to implement the conservation of wetlands and protection of migratory shorebirds through the involvement of the citizens of our two cities, an Affiliation Agreement was finalised on 25 February 1998. The agreement was supported by the First, Second and Third Five-Year Plans that have now been successfully completed.

Representatives of Brisbane and Narashino have agreed to ongoing actions to respond to increasing concern and awareness of both cities and their citizens regarding the conservation of wetlands and the protection of migratory shorebirds.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

STRATEGY 1

"Support the exchange of information in relation to wetland conservation and the protection of migratory shorebirds at Boondall Wetlands and Yatsu Higata Tidelands."

ACTIONS

1. Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre (BWEC) and Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre (YHNOC) will advocate for the exchange of relevant information on topics such as:
 - animals and plants in Boondall Wetlands and Yatsu Higata Tidelands
 - habitat restoration and bushcare techniques.

Information transfer will be further supported through the exchange of BWEC and YHNOC newsletters, displays and publications for display at public libraries and centres.

2. Support the exchange of research and information and activities by government and non-government organisations such as Japan Wild Bird Association in Chiba Prefecture and Queensland Wader Study Group, Queensland.

STRATEGY 2

"Support staff and volunteers to ensure they are effective advocates for the environment, wetlands and shorebirds within the wider community."

ACTIONS

1. Support the training of staff and volunteers at BWEC and YHNOC to ensure they understand the agreement and the importance of protecting migratory shorebirds and their habitat.
2. Support staff and volunteers in BWEC and YHNOC and their activities by:
 - development and delivery of environmental programs for schools and the general public
 - publishing newsletters and communication materials
 - program promotion and communications relating to the agreement
 - promoting voluntary work at YHNOC and BWEC.
3. Support BWEC and YHNOC volunteers and groups associated with the agreement to build stronger networking and relationships.

STRATEGY 3

"Support the conservation of wetlands and protection of migratory shorebirds by engaging stakeholders and community both internally and externally around the international agreement".

ACTIONS

1. Promote the importance of wetlands and migratory shorebirds through the programs delivered by BWEC and YHNOC in partnership with stakeholders.
2. Agree to provide web pages that will acknowledge the agreement, provide links to agreement partner websites, continue to raise awareness of issues facing the survival of migratory shorebirds and promote participation in organised activities.
3. Undertake strategies and actions to limit interference with shorebirds and their habitats.
4. Hold an annual event or a series of smaller events to raise awareness of wetland and shorebird conservation. These events will principally include the provision and promotion of:
 - the Ramsar convention, formal mention of this agreement and its objectives
 - information on the migratory shorebirds of Boondall Wetlands and Yatsu Higata Tidelands
 - a schedule of activities the community can participate in
 - information and graphics on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway used by the migratory shorebirds between Boondall Wetlands and the Yatsu Higata Tidelands.

A memento/keepsake from the event will be sent to the other city's environment centre for display (e.g. video, guestbook, report, artwork, photos).

5. Develop, maintain and update displays at BWEC and YHNOC specific to migratory shorebirds and wetlands and rotate these through centres or facilities in both countries.
6. Regularly communicate and share observation records with local schools and other community members.

STRATEGY 4

"Maintain and enhance the relationship between Brisbane, Narashino and other international stakeholders to foster the conservation of migratory shorebirds and wetlands".

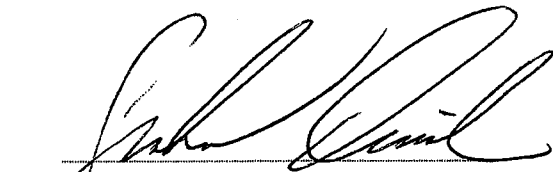
ACTIONS

1. Seek to participate in regular exchange visits and communications to support the agreement's strategies. Preferably in accordance with the following guidelines.
 - a. Both cities support voluntary visits by centre staff, volunteers and citizens from groups involved in the agreement. Visits are not mandatory and will depend on funding and support from current administration. In case regular exchange visits are not possible, either city will provide advice to the other party for alternative programs. If visits are not possible, the exchange of information can be facilitated by internet appointments (i.e. Skype).
 - b. Via the use of social media and the web, provide opportunities for staff, school students and citizens to connect and participate in dialog about the protection of wetlands and migratory shorebirds.
 - c. Cooperate with cities that have wetlands on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway network by sharing information and providing support as requested.

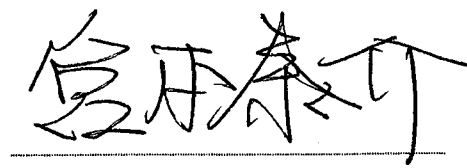
ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Monitoring will be based on confirmation that each action has been achieved.
2. Reports will be exchanged every three years sharing achievements and outlining actions for the following three years.
3. Funding is conditioned on normal annual budget approval processes.
4. The long-term affiliation agreement will continue up until a time one of the parties requires a change to the arrangement. When a change is required the relevant party will propose alternative agreement details.

This Long-Term Plan for the Affiliation Agreement is agreed to in the spirit of mutual cooperation between the people of Brisbane and Narashino and to confirm their endorsement both Mayors hereby inscribe their signatures.



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR OF BRISBANE
Date



Taisuke Miyamoto
MAYOR OF NARASHINO
Date