

**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".*

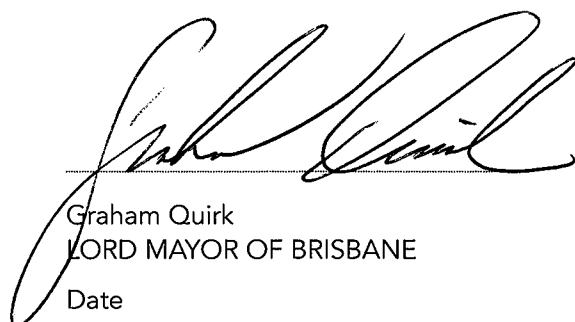
#### ACTIONS

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.

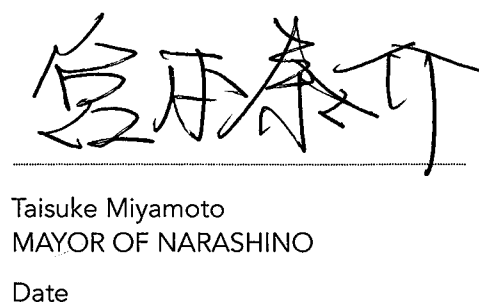
#### ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS

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