

## 5.2 FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SUB-DISTRICT OF VEMASSE, TIMOR-LESTE

Submitting Senior Officer: Jarrod Doake, Chief Operating Officer

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Re-affirms its commitment to the Friendship Agreement that it entered into with the Sub-District of Vemasse, Timor-Leste, on 10 March 2009 and August 2014.*
- 2. Agrees to forward a letter, from the Mayor, to the Administrator of the Sub-District of Vemasse regarding reaffirming the Friendship Agreement.*
- 3. Agrees to in-kind support for the one-off production of a Monash Friends of Vemasse brochure, with costs to be met from the 2021/2022 budget.*
- 4. Agrees to provide some space in the Monash Bulletin for Monash Friends of Vemasse to publicise its work.*
- 5. Re-affirms its agreement to providing furniture that the Council may seek to dispose of, for use by the school in Vemasse, if the furniture is suitable for use, with any transport costs to be met by the Monash Friends of Vemasse.*
- 6. Continues to provide support to the Monash Friends of Vemasse and a meeting space for its Annual General Meeting and up to two ad hoc meetings per annum.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report proposes that the Council re-affirms its commitments to the Friendship Agreement with the Sub-District of Vemasse, in Timor-Leste (TL) and providing a level of in-kind support to the Monash Friends of Vemasse.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Monash Friends of Vemasse (MFV) was established in 2005, following a public meeting involving local churches, schools, service clubs and other groups located in the municipality. The MFV is an incorporated body and is organised in such a way as to optimise its fund-raising efforts. It has strong links within the Monash community.

The MFV is involved in supporting the educational needs of children in the Sub-District of Vemasse.

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The Council resolved to enter into a Friendship Agreement with the Sub-District of Vemasse, Timor-Leste, at its meeting held on 10 March 2009 and re-affirmed this in August 2014.

The Agreement was signed by the Mayor and subsequently delivered to Timor-Leste by members of the Monash Friends of Vemasse, to be signed by Tomas Francisco Da Costa, the Sub-District Administrator of Vemasse and President of the Committee of Belun Vemasse.

The Agreement (refer to Attachment 1) acts as a guide for the relationship between the Sub-District and the Council.

Neither organisation is legally bound by the Agreement. Any proposal for an expenditure of money on Council's part would require a Council resolution and be able to be met from within the current budget.

As part of the Council's commitment to the Agreement, it decided to provide administrative support to the Monash Friends of Vemasse.

This support includes professional advice by Council officers, as required, minor printing for a small run of colour A4 brochures (approximately \$350-500 in total) and the use of a Council facility for the MFV's Annual General meeting and one or two ad hoc meetings, where necessary. The cost for the hall hire has been approximately \$130- 350 per annum.

The Council resolved to appoint Cr Fergeus to the MFV's Committee of Management, as Council's Liaison Representative. The MFV's Constitution provides for such representation.

### ***DISCUSSION***

The MFV recently approached the Council, to renew its relationship, given that the composition of the current Council is not the same as the Council that re-affirmed the Friendship Agreement in 2014.

The MFV has also requested that Council:

- Provides some space in the Monash Bulletin for the MFV to publicise its work.
- Supports the publication of a new MFV brochure.
- Considers providing obsolete furniture that the Council may seek to dispose of, for use by the school in Vemasse, if the furniture is suitable for use. This may be limited to items such as small tables and bookcases.

The MFV's requests are considered reasonable and its request to re-establish existing ties with Vemassee is considered to be appropriate and in keeping with the intent of previous Council decisions on this matter.

***FINANCIAL***

The cost for the brochure is anticipated to be approximately \$350-\$500.

The cost for the providing a meeting space for the MFV to conduct its Annual General Meeting and one or two ad hoc meetings, as required is estimated to range from \$130 to \$350 per annum, depending on the number of meetings held.

The provision of space in the Monash Bulletin will not incur a cost.

The potential use of obsolete furniture by the MFV will save the Council the expense of disposing of it. The MFV would be required to arrange collection of any furniture, at its own expense.

***CONCLUSION***

It is recommended that the Council re-affirms its commitment to the Friendship Agreement with the Sub-District of Vemassee, in Timor-Leste (TL), continues to provide a level of in-kind support to the Monash Friends of Vemassee and re-affirms its agreement to providing suitable obsolete furniture for the school in Vemassee.

# FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT

## BETWEEN THE SUB-DISTRICT OF VEMASSE AND THE CITY OF MONASH

In a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation, the Council of the City of Monash and its people and the Sub-District of Vemassee and its people agree to enter into a Friendship Agreement.

The Agreement is a guide to the organisations of the City of Monash and the Sub-District of Vemassee and the peoples they represent and is not intended to have any legal effect.

The Council of the City of Monash undertakes that it will:

Work together with the people of Vemassee to listen and respond to their aspirations and goals, to build local democracy and a sustainable future.

*Base all of its activities on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation and local decision-making.*

Ensure that all projects and initiatives to which it commits to, take full account of its capacity to resource and sustain them.

Seek to develop understanding between our communities.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

**CR XXXXXXXXXXXXX**  
Mayor  
City of Monash

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**  
Sub-District Administrator of Vemassee  
and  
President  
Committee of Belun Vemassee