

3.11 Timor Leste Municipal Agreement

Prepared By	Geoff Carson, Manager – Libraries, Arts and Culture
Authorised By	Director – Sustainable Communities
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Attachment(s)	YES (3)

PURPOSE

To inform Council with regard to the invitation by the Timor Leste Government to the Shire to sign a 'Municipal Agreement' to formalise its long-standing relationship and provide assistance as appropriate in its transition to local government.

BACKGROUND

The Timor Leste Government through Local Government Victoria (LGV) has invited key local government authorities to provide assistance and advice in its transition to local government via a formal agreement.

Due to its record of support for the people and government of Timor Leste and the community of Lospalos for over a decade which has included the personal involvement of several Councillors, the Shire has been invited to consider providing support to the District of Lautem, within which the Lospalos sub-district is situated.

Attached correspondence from LGV (Attachment 1) confirms that through the proposed agreement the Timor Leste Government aims to achieve *"more formal, structured and organised relationships with its partners to support locally responsive governance and infrastructure in its local communities"*. It sees the Municipal/District Cooperation Agreements as the central vehicle for coordinating and delivering the future support and cooperation to meet community aspirations for regional development in Timor Leste.

To provide background with regard to the Shire's relationship with Timor Leste, in May 2000 a friendship relationship was formalised between the Shire and the sub-district of Lospalos. This was subsequently strengthened in 2004 by the establishment of the Friends of Lospalos East Timor Special Committee as a Section 86 committee. In 2008 at a conference in Dili attended by the Mayor, Cr. Bev Colomb, on behalf of the Shire, a Memorandum of Understanding was established, which recommitted the Shire to its support for the people of Lospalos. The Special Committee is currently chaired by Cr. Tim Rodgers and continues to operate effectively, resourcing a wide range of development projects for the Lospalos community.

Council will recall a visit to the Shire in July 2014 of two senior administrators from the District of Lautem/Lospalos, where a Letter Under Seal was provided to each administrator to confirm our ongoing friendship/relationship. In the spirit of the proposed Municipal Agreement, the Letters Under Seal committed the Shire to *"collaborating with the Timorese district management of Lautem" and "sharing our knowledge, skills and experience to support the decentralisation process and the establishment of new district municipalities"*.

3.11 Timor Leste Municipal Agreement (Cont.)

DISCUSSION/ISSUES

In relation to levels of commitment and support, attention is drawn to Clause 2 of the Draft Municipal Agreement which states that *“the Victorian Municipality of ... will cooperate with Timorese District Management of ... according to their respective resources...”*. With regard to any financial implications of the proposed Municipal Agreement, it is noted that LGV has confirmed that:

1. The nature of support that the Mornington Peninsula Friends of Lospalos has provided over time is entirely consistent with the requirements of the Agreement which Council is being invited to sign with Lautem.
2. The Agreement is *“non-binding and requires no formal commitment of resources beyond that which has characterised the relationship in the past”*. It is noted that the attached Action/Implementation Plan (Attachment 2) provides a range of potential sources for external program funding where required.

A more detailed understanding of the provisions and potential implications of the Municipal Agreement for the Shire can be best understood by reference to the attached correspondence from LGV, the draft Municipal Agreement (Attachment 3) and the proposed Action/Implementation Plan, which has been the outcome of recent discussions between LGV and the government of Timor Leste.

Relevant to consideration of this matter, it is noted that at its meeting on 13 November, the Friends of Lospalos Special Committee, chaired by Cr. Rodgers, considered the matter of the Municipal Agreement and resolved that *“With regard to the proposed Municipal Agreement, having considered the issues, Friends of Lospalos Special Committee recommends that MPS consider signing the proposed Municipal Agreement forthwith, to formalise the relationship”*.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

CONCLUSION

The signing of the proposed Municipal Agreement by the Shire formalises its long relationship with the Timor Leste Government and the people of Lautem and Lospalos without any formal commitment of additional resources.

The Shire can take pride that due to its record of support for the people of Timor Leste it is one of a few Victorian municipalities invited to assist the Timor Leste Government in its transition to local government.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council resolves to sign the Timor Leste Municipal Agreement (Attachment 3) to consolidate the Shire’s ongoing relationship with the District of Lautem and the people of Lospalos.
2. That any future requests for resources or support by the District of Lautem pursuant to the Agreement are brought to Council for decision.

3.11 Timor Leste Municipal Agreement (Cont.)

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved: Cr. Rodgers

Seconded: Cr. Fraser

That the recommendation be adopted.

Carried

[VIEW ATTACHMENT 1](#)

[VIEW ATTACHMENT 2](#)

[VIEW ATTACHMENT 3](#)



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Mr Rob MacIndoe
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mornington Peninsula Shire
Private Bag 1000
Rosebud VIC 3939

Attention: Mr Geoff Carson



Dear Mr MacIndoe

Timor Leste Municipal/District Cooperation Agreement

I write in response to a letter from your predecessor, Dr Michael Kennedy OAM, received in October 2014, in which he sought further advice on the conditions attaching to the signing of an Agreement between Mornington Peninsula and Lautem (Los Palos).

In the course of his visit to Victoria in October, the Timor Leste Secretary of State for Decentralisation, Mr Tomas do Rosario Cabral, signed two further Municipal/District Agreements with the Councils of Moonee Valley and Indigo. In doing so, Mr Cabral confirmed that the Agreements provide the primary instrument for cooperation in which the Timor-Leste Government authorises continued local level cooperation between Timor-Leste and Victorian communities.

- * The Timor-Leste Government is working assiduously to achieve more formal, structured and organised relationships with its partners to support locally responsive governance and infrastructure in its local communities. It sees the Municipal/District Cooperation Agreements as the central vehicle for coordinating and delivering future support and cooperation to meet community aspirations for regional development in Timor Leste.

It is clear from your council's correspondence that the nature of support Mornington has provided to the people of Lospalos over time is entirely consistent with the requirements of the Agreement which your council is being invited to sign with Lautem. Signing the Agreement would provide further confidence that the support by the people of your Shire to the people of Lautem will continue to match the priorities of the Timor-Leste community.

The Agreement is non-binding and requires no formal commitment of resources beyond that which has characterised the relationship in the past. You may also wish to consider adopting a neighbouring council as a partner to share the effort in your Agreement with Lautem. This is a model which Yarra/Darebin have adopted in support for the District of Bacau and Moreland/Hume have adopted in their imminent Agreement with the District of Alieu.

none —

The Victorian Government has a longstanding, bi-partisan commitment to support the development and evolution of Timor-Leste. Local Government Victoria has signed its own Agreement pledging continued support for these efforts. These will continue to focus on developing Timor-Leste governance, institutions and administrative capability as its government decentralises.

If I can provide any additional support or information to facilitate an Agreement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Grant', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark Grant
Acting Executive Director
Local Government Victoria

MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT action/implementation plan

Objectives (from the agreement)	Respons.	By	How	Budget
1 - Consider economic, cultural, social, educational and/or other interchange between local community representative organisations	Council District FGs Others	Promoting bilateral cooperation and interchange between NGOs in TL district and NGOs in Vic council	Supporting: - School sister programs - NGOs programs (neighbourhood houses, cultural centres, sports and recreation, youth centres, community health centres, TAFEs, etc) - Touristic/cultural/festivals/ school/ other visits to TL district (vice-versa)	In-kind Fund raising TL NGOs funding Aus NGOs funding (ex. FGs)
2 - Contribute to strengthen professional knowledge and skills of district officers according to their needs	Council District LGV	Sharing advice, knowledge and professional experience	- Organising study and working visits by municipal delegations from Timor-Leste to Victoria and from Victoria to Timor-Leste - Providing support with technical advice to assist with implementation of district programs and projects under the direction of the Secretariat of State for Administrative Decentralisation - Mentoring district officers - Participate in Victorian Government projects of professional development of TL Public Sector (local government management) by hosting TL officers in their offices	In-kind Applying for funding from LGV Applying for funding from DFAT TL funding
5 - Regular networking, collaboration and interchange of information between District Management and	Council District	Supporting collaboration between local government	Providing access to skype, telephone and internet to facilitate: meetings through Skype	In-kind

Municipal officers and interested parties 6 - communicate and cooperate in all aspects of municipal activities, which are aimed to provide better services to their local population		officers in TL district and in Victoria municipality	- Email interchange - Facebook group - Monthly update on municipal/district news	
7 - cooperate with the District Management in projects where the objectives are the development of trading skills, creation of business opportunities and economic independence of its population	Council District Businesses FGs	Leading a trading delegation to TL district	- Promoting local businesses interchange (ex: waste management & recycling) - Sharing knowledge about projects/programs that have been successful (ex: PPP) - Promoting business trade delegations to TL district - Inviting Victorian local businesses and others to assist with developing skills among district TL young unemployed with the aim to start their own business and creating jobs and economic independence	In-kind Funding by private sector
8 - undertake procedures to obtain support to assist with implementing municipal agreement	Council District	Searching funding opportunities	- Applying for funding from LGV - Applying for funding from DFAT - TL Government funding - Fund raising and donations - In-kind support	In-kind

NOTES (from the agreement):

1. All the actions are limited by available resources
2. The agreement may be amended any time by both parties
3. Municipal agreements may be actioned once municipal managers are in office and new district structure be in place.

DRAFT

MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

Formalising the desire to develop and strengthen cooperation between Timorese Districts and Victorian Municipalities and their populations, it is agreed to:

1. Consider economic, cultural, social, educational and/or other interchange between local community representative organisations.
2. The Victorian Municipality of will cooperate with the Timorese District Management of **according to their respective resources** and through the following support:
 - Contributing to strengthen professional knowledge and skills of’s district officers according to their needs and mainly through sharing advice, professional experience and mentoring;
 - Organising study and working visits by municipal delegations from Timor-Leste to Victoria and from Victoria to Timor-Leste by the public and the private sectors.
 - Providing support with technical advice to assist with implementation of district programs and projects under the direction of the Secretariat of State for Administrative Decentralisation.
 - Regular networking, collaboration and interchange of information between District Management and Municipal officers and interested parties;
3. The Municipality of and the District Management of will be able to effectively communicate and cooperate in all aspects of their activities, which are aimed to provide better services to their local population.
4. The Municipality of will cooperate with the District Management of in projects where the objectives are the development of trading skills, creation of business opportunities and economic independence of’s population.
5. The Municipality of and the District Management of will undertake procedures to obtain support to assist with implementing this municipal agreement.
6. This protocol may be amended at any time by the mutual consent of the Victorian Municipality and the Secretariat of State for Administrative Decentralization, Timor-Leste.

MR/S
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CITY OF -----

MR TOMÁS DO ROSÁRIO CABRAL
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AMINISTRATIVE
DECENTRALISATION

Key contacts for communication relating to this protocol and any initiatives flowing from it:

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MR/S

DISTRICT MANAGEMENT OF -----:
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