

## **SISTER CITIES DELEGATION 2019**

- Cr Bill Trevor (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Helen Blackburn
- Cr Scott Rowleson
- Cr Steve Cooper
- Mr Wayne Heidrich (Senior Adviser)

## **NANNING (Thursday, 19 September to Monday, 23 September 2019)**

The delegation was hosted by the Nanning Municipal People's Government to a series of meetings and visits to promote cultural and economic interaction.

### **Visits included:**

- A high-tech precinct in the Xixiangtang district of Nanning;
- The Royal Group dairy farm;
- Ning's Fresh Market, where Bundaberg produce is sold;
- Li-Ning Sports Park;
- Nanning College for Vocational Technology;
- Qinzhou Free Trade Port Area. Products from Bundaberg have been entering China through the international container terminal.

### **Meetings included:**

- Deputy Mayor Mr Liu Weimin. Mr Liu and government representatives were delighted to be informed that Bundaberg had recently won two Sister City Awards;
- Ms Lin Huichao, Deputy Director of Nanning Administration of Culture, Broadcast and Tourism. The meeting included a group of travel company representatives;
- Nanning Foreign Affairs Office.

The following initiatives were identified by the delegation for further development/ investigation:

- TAFE/vocational opportunities following a visit to the Nanning College for Vocational Technology. Nanning officials are keen to explore Bundaberg hospitality courses;
- More accessible scholarship framework as detailed by Deputy Mayor Liu with three to six months fully paid support for students;
- Port-side opportunities from a Chinese presence: Indication from Deputy Mayor Liu that there is interest in exploring a facility for imports/exports;
- Technology company JJR proposed an interest in farm/agricultural monitoring in the Bundaberg Region and perhaps establishing an office locally;
- Chinese performers for future Chinese New Year events;
- Tourism opportunities including a request to invite Chinese tour operators to Bundaberg;
- Royal Group interest in sourcing powdered milk product.

These initiatives will be progressed through discussions with CQUniversity and other education establishments as well as sporting clubs, Bundaberg Tourism and Council's Economic Development team.

## **SETTSU (Monday, 23 September to Thursday, 26 September 2019)**

The delegation visited the ERCM Services waste disposal facility in Nagoya to learn ideas for possible implementation in the Bundaberg Region. The inspection featured a food waste disposal facility where waste is exposed to treatment at low pressure and high temperature.

The treatment process is similar for a range of other products with the technology ensuring that during the combustion process any harmful gases released in the process are treated multiple times to negate any toxicity.

The result is that around five per cent of the original material processed finds its way to landfill. Shortage of land and the high costs of landfill disposal means Japan is developing this cutting-edge technology to minimise landfill disposal.

The disposal system is capable of ramping up the amounts handled on an hourly basis according to demand.

### **Other meetings and visits included:**

- The delegation attended at Settsu City Hall to meet Mayor Moriyama and Councillors;
- Daikin Technology and Innovation Centre, where there's a focus on employing people with disabilities;
- Settsu High School;
- Settsu Fire Department to discuss emergency management arrangements.

The following initiatives were identified by the delegation for further development/ investigation:

- Keen interest in increased educational exchange opportunities;
- Potential exchange visits with sporting groups;
- Emergency services personnel and knowledge exchange;
- Government to Government dialogue to increase the strength of the Settsu/ Bundaberg relationship;
- Daikin Industries' possible scope for local parts factory presence.

These initiatives will be progressed through discussions with CQUniversity and other education establishments as well as sporting clubs, Bundaberg Tourism and Council's Economic Development team.