

8.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - UPDATE TO FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT POSTU ADMINISTRATIVU DE VEMASSE AND THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONASH

Submitting Councillor/s:	Cr Josh Fergeus
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RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Notes that Postu Administrativu (formally known as the Sub-district) De Vemasse has formally appointed a new Administrator, Elda Maria Viegas Sousa Freitas;
2. Authorises the Mayor to execute a new 'Friendship Agreement – between the Postu Administrativu De Vemasse and the Council of the City of Monash to include Elda Maria Viegas Sousa Freitas as an Administrator of Postu Administrativu;
3. Notes that Monash Friends of Vemasse representatives will be attending the 'Friendship Conference 2025' in Dili Timor-Leste, 10-11 July 2025.

INTRODUCTION

This Notice of Motion is to update the Friendship Agreement – between the Postu Administrativu De Vemasse and the Council of the City of Monash, to include newly appointed Administrator, Elda Maria Viegas Sousa Freitas.

Council would also like to note that Monash Friends of Vemasse representatives will be attending the 'Friendship Conference 2025' in Dili Timor-Leste, 10-11 July 2025.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The Monash Friends of Vemasse (MFV) was established in 2005 after a public meeting involving local churches, schools, service clubs, and other groups in the municipality. MFV is an incorporated body organised to optimise its fundraising efforts and has strong links within the Monash community. It supports the educational needs of children in the Sub-District of Vemasse.

The Council resolved to enter into a Friendship Agreement with the Sub-District of Vemasse, Timor-Leste, at its meeting on 10 March 2009 and reaffirmed this in August 2014. Council's support of MFV complements the formal Friendship Agreement signed with the people of Vemasse.

In the early days of MFV, a local committee was formed under the auspices of the sub-district administrator, key personnel in the education sector in Vemasse, and respected community members. Following the Friendship Agreement, an updated agreement was signed on 10 February 2022 between the Postu Administrativu De Vemasse and the Council of the City of Monash. A new update is needed to include any new members who have joined Postu Administrativu.

Council acknowledges the work of the Postu Administrativu in addressing local issues in Dili, Timor-Leste, by attending the 'Friendship Conference 2025' and staying connected with the community.



CONCLUSION

Council acknowledges the appointment of Elda Maria Viegas Sousa Freitas as the new Administrator of Postu Administrativu. The Council authorises the Mayor to execute a new Friendship Agreement to include the new Administrator.

Additionally, the Council notes the participation of Monash Friends of Vemasse representatives in the upcoming Friendship Conference 2025 in Dili, Timor-Leste. This continued collaboration and engagement highlight the strong ties and mutual support between Council and our communities.

ATTACHMENT LIST

1. Officers Response to NOM [8.2.1 - 2 pages]

OFFICER'S REPORT

TITLE OF MOTION

Submitting Councillor: Cr Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council

1. **Notes that Postu Administrativu (formally known as the Sub-district) has formally appointed a new Administrator, Elda Maria Viegas Sousa Freitas;**
2. **Authorises the Mayor to execute a new 'Friendship Agreement – between the Postu Administrativu De Vemasse and the Council of the City of Monash' to include Elda Maria Viegas Sousa Freitas as an Administrator of Postu Administrativu;**
3. **Notes that Monash Friends of Vemasse representatives will be attending the 'Friendship Conference 2025' in Dili Timor-Leste, in July 2025.**

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A commitment to advocacy against the changes to Postu Administrativu is ongoing within the Community Strengthening team. This is delivered within Council's existing budget through existing officer time.

There is no additional budget implication as a result of this motion.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

If the recommendation is endorsed, there will be minor administrative requirements to update the Friendship Agreement between the Postu Administrativu De Vemasse and the Council of the City of Monash.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

Good Governance

Effectively communicate and engage with the community.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The Monash Friends of Vemasse recently approached council to advise they have appointed a new Administrator and their intention to attend the 'Friendship Conference 2025'. As an upgrade to the Friendship Agreement is needed to add a new Administrator, it is recommended that council moves a motion.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Friends of Vemasse (MFV) was established in 2005 following a public meeting involving local churches, schools, service clubs, and other groups in the municipality. MFV is an incorporated body organised to optimize its fundraising efforts and has strong links within the Monash community. It supports the educational needs of children in the Sub-District of Vemasse.

The Council resolved to enter into a Friendship Agreement with the Sub-District of Vemasse, Timor-Leste, at its meeting on 10 March 2009 and reaffirmed this in August 2014. The Agreement was signed by the Mayor and delivered to Timor-Leste by MFV members to be signed by Sebastiao Filomeno Correia, the Sub-District Administrator of Vemasse, and President of the Committee of Belun Vemasse in 2022. Neither organisation is legally bound by the Agreement, and any expenditure of money by the Council would require a resolution and be met from the current budget.

MFV is covering the financial costs of attending the 'Friendship Conference 2025' in Dili, Timor-Leste, in July 2025. Council acknowledges the work of the Postu Administrativu in addressing local issues in Dili, Timor-Leste, by attending the conference and staying connected with the community.