

ADMINISTRAÇÃO DO MUNICÍPIO DE AINARO



CITY OF BALLARAT

Ainaro Community Development Action Plan 2024 – 2029





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The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

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Executive Summary

For over 20 years the City of Ballarat has had a formal link with the Municipality of Ainaro in East Timor. During this time many delegations have taken place and many projects have been delivered. It has created a relationship where both communities feel valued and connected.

Despite an ongoing commitment to a friendship arrangement with Ainaro, the City of Ballarat has never had an official action plan in place that confirms the ongoing provision of resources which steers priorities and guides projects. This action plan developed on the back of the 2023 City of Ballarat delegation has been created in conjunction with the Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Community Committee. In April 2024, the Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Community Committee formally endorsed this plan.

The action plan is based on a five-year period commencing in 2024/25. The first year of implementation focuses on formalising the partnership arrangements, working through some of the financial

and reporting arrangements that will operate throughout the plan. It also has a primary focus of infrastructure; in particular completing the local playground project which commenced construction in late 2023. The third year of the plan includes a proposal for a City of Ballarat Project Team to visit Ainaro to check-in on progress being made against actions in the plan and to provide additional assistance in the areas of building local workforce capacity and strengthening volunteer support. Any planned assistance in these areas would be co-designed with the Ainaro community. The visit will assist to finalise proposed project and action areas for the final two years of the plan.

There will be ongoing health and business projects in the final 3 years. The final year of the plan has a primary focus on monitoring and evaluation as well as ensuring program sustainability. It seeks to evaluate on the effectiveness of the plan, its implementation, and its legacy. Promoting gender equality underpins the Ainaro Community Development Action Plan.

Background

The City of Ballarat's (CoB) link with the Municipality of Ainaro first began in 1999, when the Ballarat branch of the Australian East Timor Association identified the Ainaro region as an appropriate sister region for Ballarat and initiated an 'informal friendship' relationship. Following this, the official friendship agreement was signed on 1 July 2003, by then Ainaro District Administrator Sr Joao de Corte-Real and Ballarat Mayor Cr David Vendy. This led to the Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Community Committee (BFACC) being formally established, providing support to further develop the friendship with Ainaro District.

The Ballarat-Ainaro Friendship Agreement is based on mutual respect and cooperation with the aim of working with the community to build capacity for the people of Ainaro. This formal Friendship Agreement did not commit Council to providing financial or physical resources, but rather involved the transfer of knowledge, skills, and resources as appropriate, at both local government and community levels.

Since the formal friendship agreement was signed, several delegations from the City of Ballarat have visited Ainaro. In return, the City of Ballarat has hosted several administrators from the region who have learnt from our practices and taken this knowledge and skills back to their communities.

In September 2023, a formal delegation from Ballarat visited Ainaro to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Friendship Agreement.

Action Plan – Framework and Assumptions:

The following action plan has been developed based on information gathered during the 2023 City of Ballarat delegation to Ainaro. It has also been reviewed, critiqued and formally endorsed by the by City of Ballarat's Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Community Committee (April 2024).

The action plan is based on four key objective areas:

- 1. Strengthening Partnerships and good governance between City of Ballarat and Ainaro**
- 2. Supporting the delivery of local community infrastructure in Ainaro.**
- 3. Building local community capacity.**
- 4. Promoting Health and Wellbeing.**

The Action Plan developed has been put in place based on the following assumptions.

1. City of Ballarat provides \$20,000 AUD per year to implement the action plan.
2. Funds provided by the City of Ballarat are to be paid via half yearly instalments. Each payment is subject to receipt of an acquittal report.
3. City of Ballarat to provide in-kind contributions that fall within the Reconciliation and Social Inclusion budget.
4. BFACC are responsible for annually raising funds to employ the project officer who will assist implement this action plan. Estimated annual funds required \$5,000.

Year 1 – 2024 / 2025 Action Plan

Priority Area	Action	Implementation
1. Strengthening Partnerships and Good Governance	1.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed between City of Ballarat and identified local stakeholder. 1.2 MOU to include agreed procedures for all financial and project reporting. 1.3 Partnership established with local Municipality and local key stakeholders. 1.4 Governance group established to oversee implementation of action plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed MOU in place with Ainaro Municipality. • Financial transfers underway using agreed process. • Clear guidelines produced. • Project milestone and acquittal reporting underway. • Governance documentation and meeting schedule in place. • Progress reported by Intercultural Services team to BFACC at monthly meetings. Annual briefing to council or more frequently on request.
2. Supporting Community Infrastructure	2.1 Finalise construction of community playground. 2.2 Improve Community kitchen facilities to be suitable for hospitality training. 2.3 Assess improvements and repairs to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kindergarten - Arte Ramelau - Community Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final project report received on construction process. • Playground in use by local community. • Community Kitchen improvement complete. • Community kitchen approved as at standard for hospitality training. • Needs assessment complete for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kindergarten improvement - Arte Ramelau - community centre improvement
3. Building Community Capacity	3.1 Mapping of skills shortages 3.2 Delivery of Hairdressing /barber training and equipment purchased to enable local microbusinesses to establish. 3.3 Hospitality and Tourism training. 3.4 20 laptops to be provided to community. 3.5 Assisting with Natural Disasters and Emergencies that arise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of skills shortages completed - feasibility study using local data complete. • 8 Week Course starting in May each year. • Industry partnerships established. • Laptops provided and in use.
4. Promoting Health & Wellbeing	4.1 Local health profile undertaken. 4.2 Local health promotion activity identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local health data report card/snapshot produced.

Year 2 – 2025 / 2026 Action Plan

Priority Area	Action	Implementation
1. Strengthening Partnerships and Good Governance	1.1 Locally employed project officer in place. 1.2 Establish and strengthen local governance mechanisms including steering committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project officer employed. • Steering committee in place to guide project officer. • Reporting regular activity updates provided. • Monitoring and evaluation (MEL) plan developed; to be embedded in reporting.
2. Supporting Community Infrastructure	2.1 Conversion of Basketball court to enable use as a futsal space. 2.2 Improvements to kindergarten initiated. 2.3 Improvements to Arte Ramelau initiated. 2.4 Maintenance schedule for community building established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction/modifications in progress. • Regular Construction/ project updates provided to steering committee, Intercultural services team and BFACC. • Maintenance schedule developed -embed in MEL.
3. Building Community Capacity	3.1 Hospitality and tourism training to take place. 3.2 Industry partnerships strengthened. 3.3 Career pathway mentoring established. 3.4 Micro business grants program to be established. 3.5 Assisting with Natural Disasters and Emergencies that arise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second group of cohorts to complete training in renovated training rooms (fourth cohort overall). • Cohorts to access mentoring /career pathway support and work experience opportunities.
4. Promoting Health & Wellbeing	4.1 Local health promotion activity established addressing identified health priorities. 4.2 Establish Ballarat/Ainaro Soccer partnership. 4.3 Establish soccer coaching program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health promotion activity schedule in place and operational. • Soccer equipment available for community. • Soccer coaching program in place.

From 2026:

Year three of the plan which commences in July 2026 will focus on a workforce exchange program and seek to strengthen volunteer opportunities in Ainaro for City of Ballarat staff members.

Midway point will see a delegation check in on progress and an important opportunity to consider priorities for the final two years of the plan.

Year 3 – 2026 / 2027 Action Plan

Priority Area	Action	Implementation
1. Strengthening Partnerships and Good Governance	1.1 Ongoing employment of local project officer 1.2 CoB delegation to visit and check on progress, consider priorities for the final 2 years of the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project officer regularly reporting updates. • Delegation report submitted to council.
2. Supporting Community Infrastructure	2.1 Building and upgrading local school classrooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms completed and report of process received from Ainaro project officer.
3. Building Community Capacity	3.1 Consider a workforce exchange program – CoB staff volunteering their skills in Ainaro. 3.2 Micro business grants program to be established. 3.3 Tool library established - System for tools being loaned set up by Ainaro based project officer with help from.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoB staff report submitted to council. • Grant /EOI Guidelines and assessment process complete.
4. Promoting Health & Wellbeing	4.1 Assist Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Health Group working on programs in region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of community health programs.

From July 2027 (Year 4 2027-28, Year 5 2028-29): After three years the Action Plan will be reviewed. It is envisaged that there will be a continuation of actions initiated in Year 3 of the plan in areas including: upgrading classrooms, small business grants, tool library, nutrition/health programs.



Governance

Implementation progress will be reported by Intercultural Services Team to the Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Community Committee at their monthly meeting. A briefing will be presented to Council annually or more frequently on request.



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