

Renewed MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 2022 between:

the Sub-District Administration of Venilale and the Shire of Mansfield

This Memorandum of understanding (MoU) reaffirms the Friendship between the Sub-District Administration of Venilale, Democratic Republic of Timor Leste and the Shire of Mansfield originally signed in 2005 in accordance with the 'Statement of Principles for Local Governments Working in Timor-Leste' of 2000.

The *Friends of Venilale (FoV)* community committee continues to operate as the means for the Shire Council, partner organisations and members of the community to collaborate in respect of the friendship relationship.

It is intended that all initiatives undertaken within the Friendship Relationship should be directed towards strengthening the communities within the sub-district of Venilale. These initiatives should aim to build capacity and advance the self-sufficiency of the people of Venilale and should be consistent with the principles of environmental, social and cultural sustainability.

In recognition of the continuing value of this relationship to our communities we, the undersigned, reaffirm and declare our joint commitment to:

- the friendship relationship and the principles and values on which it is based, including mutual respect, mutual understanding and Timorese-led decision making
- a productive partnership built on mutual respect and friendship that responds to the ideas and aspirations of our communities
- recognising, supporting and strengthening the community-to-community relationships already established
- transparent processes to ensure that both parties, the Sub-district Administration of Venilale and Shire of Mansfield, are regularly informed of developments and activities that occur between the two parties.

Accordingly, we agree that we will continue to work together in friendship to:

- respond to the aspirations of the people of Venilale as they continue to work towards an inclusive, prosperous and sustainable future
- engage with the people of Venilale in ways that complement their efforts to achieve their goals
- ensure that any activities we undertake respect:
 - the policies and programs of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and priorities identified in consultation with the Venilale Sub-District Administration and community
 - the capacity of our organisations, partners and communities to resource and sustain them.

We acknowledge the independence, wisdom, knowledge and skills of the people of Venilale and their representative and community organisations.

We also acknowledge the complementary roles and contributions of FoV, as a member of Australian Timor Leste Friendship Network (ATLFN), and their local partner organisations who engage with Venilale in the spirit of friendship.

This agreement is intended to be a guide for our organisations and for the communities we represent for the coming 10 years. This agreement will not have any legal effect and may be terminated or varied as agreed.