

# Media Release

27 November 2023

## **Friendship Agreement signed between Gladstone Region and Melitopol City**

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett and Melitopol City Council Mayor Ivan Fedorov have signed a historic Friendship Agreement at a virtual ceremony held on Monday, 27 November 2023.

The Friendship Agreement has been developed to build mutual relations, coordinated cooperation and friendship between the two cities.

The origin of the Friendship Agreement was formed at the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra when the following motion was unanimously passed:

“We the delegates of the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and its legitimate elected democratic governments in seeking peace, security and stability within the State of Ukraine.”

Mayor Burnett said he was proud to sign the Friendship Agreement and is hopeful of a supportive and beneficial partnership into the future.

“Melitopol is a beautiful city with a rich industrial heritage and manufacturing capabilities that has similarities with Gladstone,” Mayor Burnett said.

“The Friendship Agreement details how both parties will work together and share knowledge to achieve common goals.”

The Agreement focuses on sharing knowledge and experience on topics such as green energy programs, rebuilding strategies, trade, economic recovery, community development, tourism, industry and science.

Mayor Fedorov said he was grateful to Mayor Burnett and Australian people for support to Ukraine and Melitopol in particular.

“Signing the Friendship Agreement between Gladstone region and Melitopol is not only about unconditional support, but also about prospects,” Mayor Fedorov said.

“These are the prospects for further cooperation in strategically important areas and, above all, in the reconstruction of our city after liberation from Russian occupation.

“It is impossible to overcome such a difficult path alone. And I am grateful to you for the fact that we can walk side by side, count on support and clearly know: together, everything is possible.”

**ENDS**