

What's Next?

The Future of Global Cities New Zealand

05.09.2026



GCNZ Panel



Moderator
Mayor Grant Smith
GCNZ National President



Panellist
Emeritus Prof. Peter Cotterell
GCNZ Board Director



Panellist
Danielle Caudwell
GCNZ Board Director

Our Mission

We help New Zealand cities, districts and regions build enduring global relationships for mutual benefit

Focus for 2027

Active citizen diplomacy

New Zealanders **understand the value of local-global city partnerships and how they can be actively involved.**

Citizens and communities are empowered to Think Global, Act Local.

Capability & exchange

Our cities and regions are **capable and confident in sharing knowledge, perspectives and best practices with the world and each other.** We deliver value-driven forums and resources.

Website Refresh

Overview

The new website is an ambitious initiative that will mark the beginning of a more forward-looking approach for GCNZ. It will support GCNZ in taking a more proactive role in promoting the value of citizen and city diplomacy, while providing practical tools and resources for local councils and communities.

The website will serve two core functions: (1) hosting an **interactive map** that enables users to locate and learn about global partnerships across the country; and (2) providing a **central digital hub** for information, resources, templates, and other relevant materials.

Website Refresh

Objectives

Reduce the barrier to entry for accessing, learning about and engaging with global partnerships across the country.

Bring together relevant and timely information, material, and resources on global partnerships in one place.

Make it easier for local councils and community groups **to maintain and share information** about their partnerships and promote shared learning.

CONNECTING NEW ZEALAND CITIES TO THE WORLD

Interactive connections, global impact. Explore our nationwide map to see how your local city partners across borders for shared growth and innovation.

Explore our Cities



Learn More



Explore Our Interactive Map

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View the map



130+ International city partnerships



NEWS

Making New Connections

NEWS

Auckland Has a New Sister City

EVENT

Wellington Conference

EVENT

Conference Findings 202

Discover Our Resources

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View All



Member Resource 1

Download



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Member Resource 1

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Member Resource 1

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Member Resource 1

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DISCOVER NEW ZEALAND'S SISTER CITIES

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Search for city



Select City or District



Filter by Country



Map

Table

New Zealand

New Zealand

New Zealand

New Zealand



+

-



Locate any global partnership in New Zealand with just a few clicks

Search for specific cities and districts or filter by country

DISCOVER NEW ZEALAND'S SISTER CITIES

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Search for city

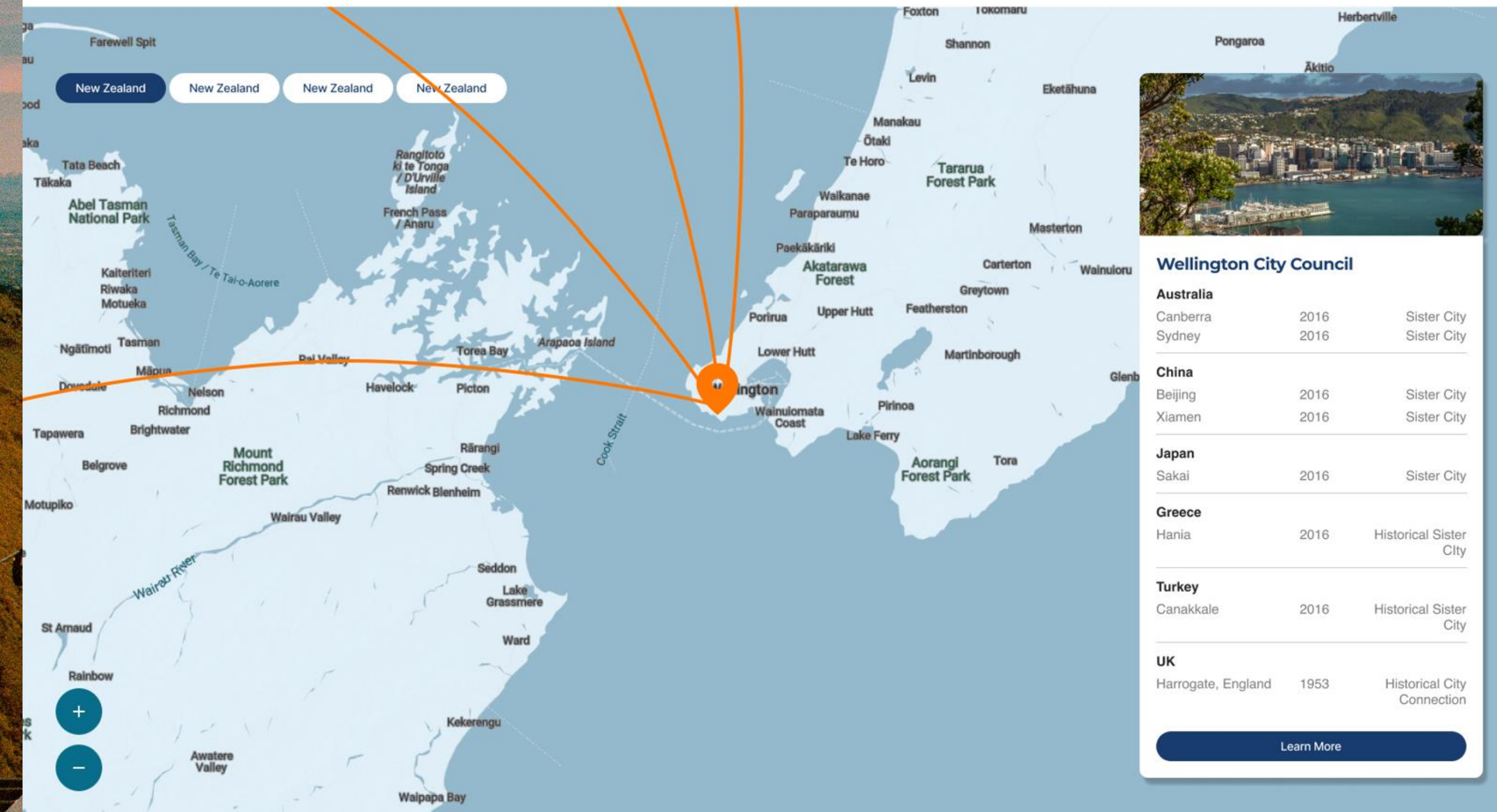


Select City or District ▾

Filter by Country ▾

Map

Table



Get a quick overview of partnerships in the area and click through to learn more

See where partnerships are spread across the globe

Socials



[instagram.com/globalcitiesnz/](https://www.instagram.com/globalcitiesnz/)



[facebook.com/globalcitiesnz/](https://www.facebook.com/globalcitiesnz/)



[linkedin.com/company/global-cities-new-zealand/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-cities-new-zealand/)

Membership Roadshow

The proposed Council Outreach Roadshow has been delayed but is still high on the Board's agenda. Visiting each of our member councils, member organisations or Sister Cities committees.

We're keen to connect in person, hear about your priorities, and ensure that your international activities are well-supported.

Future member services

Ongoing Advisory Support: We advise members on all things Sister Cities. How to navigate issues, we have continued to offer policy insights, city diplomacy briefings, and on-demand guidance to councils navigating international engagement challenges.

Keeping Members informed: Publish three significant newsletters each year, with membership opportunities to submit articles.

New Website, Members' Portal & Social Media: Complete the development of the new website and digital platform, including a members' portal. Promote our Social media presence with regular posts and updated content.

Government Acknowledgement: Global Cities NZ, along with the Metro sector of LGNZ, has been working hard and lobbying MFAT to get recognition and resource for City to City subnational diplomacy.

2027 Events

Professional International Managers Network: We will be coordinating a meeting of international officers and council staff engaged in global or international relations. This will provide a professional development platform and strengthen inter council coordination.

NZ-China Mayoral Forum 2027: New Zealand's turn to host the fourth edition in 2027. The Forum brings city leaders from across New Zealand and China to advance people-to-people links, trade, education, tourism, and city to city dialogue. GCNZ along with the CPAFFC-Chinese Peoples Assn for Friendship with Foreign Countries will announce a host city(s) and forum format in the coming months. There will be opportunities for member cities and councils to fully participate.

We would love to hear your thoughts!

admin@globalcities.org.nz

