

Visitors like all but our spread

By LACEY BURLEY

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UNITED States political delegates were yesterday impressed with their visit to the Garden City, except for the Vegemite.

Toowoomba Regional Council yesterday hosted the delegates for lunch during their three-day visit to the Toowoomba region. The delegates visited parks and gardens, the Sustainable House and Wagners.

The Australian Political Exchange Council hosted the 25th delegation which visited Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Toowoomba.

Member for Cunningham Stuart Copeland said this was the first time Toowoomba had been included on the agenda.

Mr Copeland said it was an "eye-opener" for the delegates.



Mayor Peter Taylor (left) shows Ruthven Street to visiting US political delegates (rear, from left) Tony Payton Jnr, Lee Yancey, Amy Ruble, Mark Falzone and (front, from left) Toowoomba CEO Phil Spencer, Stephanie Kent and Leslie Hafner.

PICTURE: KEVIN FARMER

Democrat Party delegate Tony Payton Jnr (Pennsylvania State House of Representatives member) said he enjoyed Mayor Peter Taylor's insight into the new regional system of government.

"It is fascinating to learn about the merger," Mr Payton said.

"Even though it was forced, it has been embraced and will benefit people in the long run.

"It's definitely been something

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— Tony Payton Jnr

we can learn from and take back to our respective states.

"The beauty of this exchange is to make us better legislators and better leaders."

It was Mr Payton's first trip to Australia and his first taste of Vegemite; he loved our country but not so much our favourite spread.