

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.2

Proposed travel by Councillor Ken Ong, 7th Annual City Development Conference, Singapore, November 2014

30 September 2014

Presenter: Councillor Ken Ong

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Councillor Ken Ong to undertake travel to Singapore between 19 and 21 November for the 7th Annual City Development Conference (Conference).
2. Councillor Ong has been invited by the Marcus Evans Group to address the Plenary Session at the Conference on the City of Melbourne approach and strategies to sustainable city development. Following a similar invitation in 2012, Councillor Ong represented the Council at the Conference in Chongqing, China.

Key issues

3. The 2014 Conference is a three day event which will bring together leaders in key sectors from around the world including representatives from government and business organisations.
4. The objective of the Conference is to provide a platform for industry experts and leaders to explore ways of integrating development with sustainable city planning strategies, more effective transportation systems, low-carbon energy water networks and efficient and scalable social infrastructure.
5. The Conference will look at the rise of the five key forces making a significant mark on the urban landscape; namely water, transportation, waste, energy and urbanisation. It will look at how urban planners are faced with the complexities and unpredictable challenges these factors bring, particularly as they become increasingly intertwined.
6. A significant portion of the Conference program will feature streams relating to the following topics:
 - 6.1. Urban planning and regeneration
 - 6.2. infrastructure development and financing
 - 6.3. urban mobility
7. Councillor Ong proposes to address the Conference on the challenges of increased densification and stress on infrastructure as well as exploring the mitigation action strategies for future liveability. Through his presentation, Councillor Ong will present a case study highlighting what Melbourne has done to embed sustainable practices into the City of Melbourne's Planning Scheme and Strategic Plans.
8. Participation in the Conference will allow the City of Melbourne to demonstrate its leadership in urban design, planning and sustainable development. It will also provide an opportunity to be part of international discussion on the city infrastructure challenges faced by growing cities.
9. Councillor Ong's participation will be partially funded by the Conference organiser, the Marcus Evans Group, which will contribute \$775 towards airfare costs. It is estimated that the cost to Council will be \$4725 which will cover the remaining portion of the airfare as well as accommodation and incidental costs.

Recommendation

10. That Council:
 - 10.1. Approves participation by Councillor Ken Ong in the 7th Annual City Development Conference in Singapore between 19 and 21 November 2014 at an approximate cost to Council of \$4725.
 - 10.2. Notes that Councillor Ong will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT

Finance

1. The cost of Councillor Ong's travel will be partially funded by the Conference organiser, the Marcus Evans Group, who will contribute approximately \$775. The cost to Council is estimated at \$4725 which includes \$2825 for the remainder of airfare, \$900 for three nights accommodation and \$1000 for incidental costs.
2. The estimated cost to Council will be met from the existing budget allocation.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Relation to Council policy

4. The Manager Governance Services has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
5. Councillor Ong's participation in the conference will enable him to promote Council's sustainability objectives and further enhance Melbourne's reputation as a leading sustainable city.

Environmental sustainability

6. The carbon emission resulting from air travel will be offset with the purchase of credits.