

**Report to Council**

**Agenda item 7.2**

**Proposed travel by Councillor Jackie Watts, Yangon, Myanmar, November 2018**

**30 October 2018**

**Presenter:** Councillor Jackie Watts

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Councillor Jackie Watts to represent Council at meetings held with various representatives from a range of sectors whilst on private travel in Yangon, Myanmar in November 2018

**Key issues**

2. Councillor Watts has travelled to Yangon on numerous occasions and has developed strong relationships with government and non-government and corporate organisations and local and international academics, in both a personal capacity and as a Councillor of the City of Melbourne.
3. Whilst in Yangon, it is anticipated that Councillor Watts may be invited to again meet again with officials from organisations such as the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and the Yangon Heritage Trust.
4. There is likely to be continued interest in dialogue on Melbourne's strategic and policy approach to city planning and development, heritage, sustainable transport and open space initiatives. These are areas on which Councillor Watts has engaged with Yangon officials in previous visits. This included provision of policy and strategy material and City of Melbourne officer contacts for ongoing discussion.
5. There is no cost to Council associated with travel by Councillor Watts as it will be privately funded.

**Recommendation**

6. That Council
  - 6.1. Approves the proposal by Councillor Jackie Watts to represent the City of Melbourne at any meetings held with city officials in Yangon, Myanmar whilst on private travel in November 2018
  - 6.2. Notes that Councillor Watts will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

**Attachment:**

1. Supporting Attachment

## Supporting attachment

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### Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

### Finance

2. There is no cost to Council associated with this travel proposal. Councillor Watts will be personally funding her travel.

### 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.

### Occupational Health and Safety

4. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade offers the following advisory statement in relation to travel to Myanmar.

“Exercise a high degree of caution in Myanmar overall due to the uncertain security situation and possibility of civil unrest. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Monitor the media and other sources about possible new security risks”

5. Councillor Watts has noted the advice.

### Relation to Council policy

6. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.

### Environmental sustainability

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