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Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 28 May 2019

Agenda item title: * Shrine of Remembrance request for a new agreement and increased funding support

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[shrine_com_scope_of_services_submission_270519.pdf](#) 1.74 MB

• PDF

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SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE
MELBOURNE

27 May 2019

Mr Justin Hanney
Chief Executive Officer
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Ref: EXE2019-047

Dear Mr Hanney

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE: SECRETARIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

I write in support of the Scope of Services Proposal for the Shrine of Remembrance and take this opportunity on behalf of the Shrine Trustees to acknowledge with appreciation the close and strong ties that have existed between Melbourne City Council and the Shrine of Remembrance for more than 80 years.

In relation to the Scope of Services Proposal and the council's related Management Report, we make the following observations and comments:

1. We are disappointed Council has chosen not to work with the Shrine to fully explore the options proposed appearing instead to represent our relationship in terms of a financial obligation.
2. On this point it should be noted that the Shrine is consistently among the top-five iconic attractions in Australia and greater than 25 per cent of the Shrine's visitors choose to visit Melbourne because of the Shrine: our contribution to Melbourne and its business rate payers exceeds \$260 million per annum.
3. Council will be aware Section 7 of the *Shrine of Remembrance Act (1978)* states:
"The Melbourne City Council shall provide such secretarial and administrative services as the trustees require for carrying out their functions under this act."
4. Council has acted to meet this responsibility over many years through successive agreements; however, the support provided has not kept pace with the growing secretarial and administrative requirements of the Shrine arising from its development and increased programming and patronage.
5. In preparation for discussions to inform the successor agreement to the 2014–19 MoU, the Shrine of Remembrance developed a Scope of Services specification document provided to Council on 22 January 2019. This identified three alternatives to be explored with Council. These were:
 - a. for the City of Melbourne to fully deliver the Trustees' required scope of services utilising its in-house resources;
 - b. maintaining the current hybrid relationship wherein Council provides a number of prescribed services with the balance performed by Shrine employees, some of whose wages are partially subsidised by Council; or the Shrine's preferred option,
 - c. transferring responsibility for delivery of all required services in-house to the Shrine with a compensating increase in funding from Council to allow the Shrine to perform this function on Council's behalf.

6. It was recognised in the Shrine's proposal that there may be other alternatives the parties might identify and explore in discussion.
7. Regrettably, no process of negotiation occurred and our first knowledge of Council's approach to meeting its ongoing obligations to the Shrine were shared with us at a meeting with Council's officers on Wednesday, 22 May 2019.
8. It appears to us only one of the three identified options was evaluated: the present option (b). Yet this has been conflated with the increased funds request associated with option (c) leading to a recommended outcome apparently predicated on funding minimisation: denying both parties the opportunity to reach a more balanced and mutually beneficial position.
9. We note and wish to clarify the following points in relation to the Management Report:
 - a. **Paragraph 2:** The paraphrasing of the Act might cause Council to incorrectly infer the level of support to be provided is as determined by Council. Hence, we have included the actual text at our dot-point 3.
 - b. **Paragraph 7:**
 - i. The suggestion that the Shrine's specification of services relates solely to staffing is incorrect. In preparing our proposal to Council we assessed the current costs to perform the full suite of secretarial and administrative services required. This was in the order of \$1.2 million and included labour cost allocations as components of the overall costs. None of the three, alternative proposals put by us asked Council to fund eight positions at the Shrine.
 - ii. Further, as the Act is silent on the specification of secretarial and administrative services, it is unfounded in our view to suggest the Shrine is proposing an 'expanded interpretation'.
 - c. **Paragraph 8:** Whilst we would gladly recognise the value of Council's support, the Shrine could not attest to a value for water and parks and garden services without these being independently audited. For example, it is our understanding there is no separate metering for water provided exclusively to the Shrine Reserve; as such, we could not attest to the value of water as (apparently) estimated by Council.
 - d. **Paragraph 9.1:** It is not made explicit in the Management Report that the value of cash and in-kind support being recommended in 2019–20 is \$12,045 less than that provided under the current MoU: a 3.6 per cent reduction (i.e., \$345,045 in 2018–19 vs \$333,000 in 2019–20).
 - e. In the preceding calculation, the value of funding in 2018–19 includes an un-escalated 2014–15 postage value of \$7,200 per year. The Management Report is silent on this, and we are uncertain whether Council anticipates its withdrawal?
 - f. **Attachment 2:**
 - i. A reference to the grant support provided to the RSL (Victoria) is spurious as the Shrine receives no financial benefit.
 - ii. There is a reference to, "Significant new capital works identified in the Domain Parklands master plan, including path renewals, stairs from St Kilda Road tram stop to the Shrine." The Shrine has neither requested nor approved any capital works within the Shrine Reserve and no works may be programmed without our authority.
10. In our meeting with Council's officers on 22 May it was discussed and agreed that Council would continue to provide payroll and accounting support on the same terms as present and the annual financial payment would be escalated with CPI; we are concerned this is not reflected in the Management Report.

In closing, we believe it will certainly come as a disappointment to the veteran and general community of Melbourne that just six short months on from the one-hundredth anniversary of the Armistice that ended the most destructive war in the history of the human race, Melbourne City Council would not simply reject our request for increased support, but reduce it.

We request further consideration and our joint engagement in deliberation on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean M Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean M Lee
Chief Executive Officer

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Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 28 May 2019

Agenda item title: * 7.1 Proposed attendance by Councillor Cathy Oke at the Climate Action Roundtable and Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum Brisbane, and Strategic Partnerships for the implementation of the Paris Agreement meeting Canberra, in June 2019

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group

This is a written submission in regards to Agenda Item 7.1 Proposed attendance by Councillor Cathy Oke at the Climate Action Roundtable and Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum Brisbane, and Strategic Partnerships for the implementation of the Paris Agreement meeting Canberra, in June 2019.

It is important that the City of Melbourne continues to advocate about the importance of climate change mitigation strategies. Melbourne is a world leader in this regard, with its superb policies concerning sustainability, preserving the ecosystems within the city, the creation and maintenance of its urban forest projects, the realisation of the vital role that wetlands play in the environment. Councillor Cathy Oke has put in a tremendous amount of work with ICLEI and

her thoughts on this important matter should be heard in Brisbane at this conference. She has much experience on the impact that the changing environment has on Pacific Island Nations. The cost of this endeavour to Council is in fact an investment towards a better and brighter future for Melbourne and its citizens.

Sharing with other subnational groups how City of Melbourne is forging ahead with its climate change mitigation strategies is a way for Melbourne to help citizens around the Pacific and local regions to help make the world combat climate change. Also, this will give the Councillor the opportunity to experience the climate of Queensland in winter, and compare and contrast this to Melbourne.

Best regards

Chris Thrum

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