

**28 February 2006**

**INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE  
8-12 OCTOBER 2007**

**Committee**    Community and Culture

**Presenter**    Cr Wilson

**Purpose**

1.    To recommend that Council agree to sponsor a dinner reception for delegates to the International Metropolis 2007 Conference, to be held in Melbourne from 8-12 October 2007.

**Recommendation**

2.    That Council resolve to sponsor a dinner reception for delegates to the International Metropolis 2007 Conference, to be held in Melbourne from 8-12 October 2007.

**Council Report Attachment:**

1.    Community and Culture Committee, Agenda Item 5.4, 14 February 2006

14 February 2006

**INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE  
8-12 OCTOBER 2007**

**Division** Sustainability & Innovation

**Presenter** Geoff Lawler, Director Sustainability & Innovation

**Purpose**

1. To recommend that Council agree to sponsor a dinner reception for delegates to the International Metropolis 2007 Conference, to be held in Melbourne from 8-12 October 2007.

**Recommendation**

2. That the Community and Culture Committee recommend to Council that it resolve to sponsor a dinner reception for delegates to the International Metropolis 2007 Conference, to be held in Melbourne from 8-12 October 2007.

**Key Issues**

3. In 2004, Monash University and the Australian Multicultural Foundation won the right to host the International Metropolis 2007 Conference in Melbourne from 8-12 October 2007. The Lord Mayor supported the bid and the conference is supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments. Other State Governments are likely to also become supporters.
4. Metropolis is an international forum for research and policy on migration, diversity and cities. Its membership is made up of policy-makers, researchers and non-government organisations in 21 countries. It was established 10 years ago and holds an international conference each year. The first conference was held in Milan and the 2005 conference was held in Toronto. The 2007 conference will be the first held in the southern hemisphere or the Asia-Pacific region. It is expected to attract 500 delegates and will be held in the City of Melbourne.
5. The conference is being developed by a steering group, under the leadership of the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements and the Australian Multicultural Foundation. The City of Melbourne is represented on the steering group. The proposed theme for the Melbourne conference is *Migration, Economic Growth and Social Cohesion*. In particular, *the patterns of current and future migration; the scope for reinforcing its favourable impact on economic growth; and for strengthening the social cohesion which is a prerequisite of creating a global economy in which people migrate out of choice*. Speakers will include senior government representatives, international and Australian academics and Australian business leaders.
6. The conference will showcase Melbourne's great achievements as a multicultural city. It will demonstrate Melbourne's leadership by bringing this forum on very important global issues to the Asia-Pacific region for the first time. It will reinforce the economic importance of social issues such as migration and social cohesion to the Melbourne and Australian community in general and to the business community in particular.

7. Sponsorship of the dinner will profile Council as a supporter of public discussion on migration and enable direct access to leading policy makers. Timing may allow the conference to be linked to Council's business festival.

#### **Time Frame**

8. Monash University wrote to the Lord Mayor in November 2005 asking the Council to consider hosting a dinner reception for the delegates. The University was advised that its request would be considered by Council in February 2006.

#### **Relation to Council Policy**

9. This conference is consistent with Council's policy aims expressed in *City Plan 2010* for the City of Melbourne to be an inclusive, engaging, innovative and connected city and society.

#### **Government Relations**

10. The Conference is supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments. It is likely that it will also be supported by other State Governments.

#### **Finance**

11. If this report's recommendation is agreed to by Council, an allocation of \$45,000 will be required in the 2007/8 Budget to host a dinner for up to 500 delegates. Alternatively, if the Council felt that this amount was too large, the organisers might be offered a cocktail style reception at a cost of \$18,000.

#### **Legal**

12. No direct legal implications arise from the recommendation to the report.

#### **Background** (the following information is from [www.international.metropolis.net](http://www.international.metropolis.net))

13. The International Metropolis Project is a forum for bridging research, policy and practice on migration and diversity. The Project aims to enhance academic research capacity, encourage policy-relevant research on migration and diversity issues, and facilitate the use of that research by governments and non-governmental organizations. In the decade since its inception, the Project has grown to include researchers, policy-makers, international organizations and NGOs from North America, most of Europe and much of the Asia-Pacific region.
14. The Project is managed by a Secretariat, which is jointly located in Ottawa and Amsterdam. It is also guided by an International Steering Committee made up of approximately 40 partners from across the Project, who provide advice, direction and an international perspective.
15. The Project is perhaps best-known for its International Conferences, which are the largest annual gathering of experts in the fields of migration and diversity. Each Conference attracts upwards of 750 delegates for high-level plenary sessions, a comprehensive study tour program, and more than 60 concurrent workshops. The Conferences are an opportunity for delegates – both expert and novice – to discuss critical issues, identify research and policy gaps, compare international experiences, and build the Metropolis network. Conferences have been held in Milan, Copenhagen, Zichron Yaacov, Washington, Vancouver, Rotterdam, Oslo, Vienna, and Geneva, with future conferences planned for Toronto, Lisbon and Melbourne. A competitive process has been developed to guide the selection of host cities.

16. Between Conferences, the Metropolis network is brought together through shared research projects, publications and informal policy discussion; smaller Inter-Conference Seminars; a website that highlights research and upcoming activities; the Journal of International Migration and Integration, which showcases international research on migration and diversity; and an annual publication – the World Bulletin – which updates the network on partners’ various projects and activities.
  17. The success of the Project is largely a result of these regular interactions, which facilitate collaboration and comparative projects. Others have looked to the International Metropolis Project as a model, and organizations have used the relationships formed through Metropolis to assist them in launching their own research projects and networks.
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**FINANCE ATTACHMENT**

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Funding will be subject to the normal budget processes.

**Joe Groher**  
Manager Financial Services

**LEGAL ATTACHMENT**

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No direct legal implications arise from the recommendation to the report.

**Instrument of Delegation**

On 26 April 2005 the Council resolved to delegate to the Community and Culture Committee the power, duties and functions directly relating or ancillary to Social Policy and Culture.

**Alison Lyon**  
Manager Legal & Governance