

**Report to the Future Melbourne (Finance and Governance)  
Committee**

**Agenda item 6.7**

**Proposal to travel – City of Melbourne delegation to Sydney, 6 to 7  
November 2013**

**1 October 2013**

**Presenter:** Geoff Lawler, Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a delegation of Councillors and council officers to travel to Sydney for meetings with representatives of the City of Sydney.

**Key issues**

2. As the most comparable capital city, Sydney deals with issues and challenges similar to those faced by Melbourne in providing for and balancing the needs of residents, business and visitors. There is an opportunity to further develop the strong relationship between the two cities on respective approaches and strategies.
3. To commence this process, it is proposed that a delegation of City of Melbourne Councillors and council officers visit the City of Sydney for a range of meetings and associated activities on 6 and 7 November 2013. The key areas to be covered as part of the meetings will include the following:
  - 3.1. Financial management and governance.
  - 3.2. Visitation and activation strategies.
  - 3.3. Service delivery policies and models.
  - 3.4. Transport and access programs.
4. The delegation will be led by the Deputy Lord Mayor and will involve a number of Councillors to be determined once full details of the program are confirmed. The Chief Executive Officer and two directors will also participate in the delegation.
5. The cost per Councillor in travelling to Sydney is estimated at \$1948. This comprises airfare (\$1084), accommodation for two nights (\$530) and incidentals (\$334).

**Recommendation from management**

6. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 6.1. approve the proposed travel to Sydney by a delegation of Councillors and council officers led by the Deputy Lord Mayor on 6 and 7 November 2013 at an estimated cost of \$1948 per Councillor
  - 6.2. note that the number Councillors participating in the delegation will be confirmed once the program is finalised
  - 6.3. note that a post travel report will be prepared for Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 14 days of the finalisation of costs.

**Attachments**

1. Supporting Attachments

## SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT

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### Legal

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

### Finance

2. The cost per councillor in travelling to Sydney is estimated at \$1948. This comprises an economy airfare (\$1084), accommodation for two nights (\$530) and incidentals (\$334). Provision is made within the current year's budget for Councillor 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.

### Stakeholder consultation

4. On-going dialogue as proposed in this report would provide an opportunity for more detailed exchanges on issues important to both cities. This will complement the broader strategic discussions which occur at meetings of the Council of Capital Cities Lord Mayors.

### Relation to Council policy

5. The areas proposed for discussion are relevant to all the goals underpinning the Council Plan 2013–17.
6. The Manager Governance Services confirms that the travel proposal accords with requirements under the Councillor Expenses and Guidelines.

### Environmental sustainability

7. Strategies promoting environmental sustainability will feature in some of the discussions with the City of Sydney.
8. The carbon emission resulting from air travel will be offset with the purchase of credits.