

**Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**

**Agenda item 7.4**

**Proposed travel by Councillor Pinder-Mortimer, Sydney, February 2015**

**10 February 2015**

**Presenter: Councillor Beverley Pinder-Mortimer**

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for Councillor Beverley Pinder-Mortimer to travel to Sydney in late February to hold meetings with the City of Sydney and observe activities associated with 2015 Chinese New Year celebrations.

**Key issues**

2. Chinese New Year is an important cultural celebration and a key feature on Melbourne's event calendar. Melbourne currently plays host to a number of Chinese New Year events held by a variety of community and stakeholder organisations.
3. The City of Melbourne supports Chinese New Year celebrations through the Triennial Sponsorship Program. Key aims for the City of Melbourne in sponsoring Chinese New Year events include supporting the Chinese community in Melbourne, celebration of Melbourne's rich cultural diversity and increased activation of the Chinatown precinct and the city in general through provision of free and accessible events.
4. The City of Sydney is recognised as presenting one of the largest Chinese New Year celebrations outside of Asia. Observation of the event and discussion with council officers in Sydney may identify opportunities for Melbourne to explore as it looks at facilitating community efforts to consolidate and build the scale and profile of the event. One of the key areas to be explored is the opportunity to maximise the value and benefits of marketing resources through greater community and stakeholder co-ordination of the event program.
5. Chinese New Year celebrations in Sydney run from 13 February to 1 March 2015. Councillor Pinder-Mortimer proposes to observe key aspects of celebrations such as the main parade and will be in Sydney for one day and evening in late February.
6. Councillor Pinder-Mortimer's approximate travel costs include \$700 for return airfare, \$350 for one night's accommodation and \$170 in incidental costs. Councillor Pinder-Mortimer will be accompanied by an officer from the Events Melbourne Branch. Laura Cavallo, Chief Executive Officer of Destination Melbourne, also proposes to accompany Councillor Pinder-Mortimer and her travel costs will be privately funded.

**Recommendation**

7. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 7.1. approves Councillor Pinder-Mortimer's proposal to travel to Sydney to hold meetings and observe activities associated Chinese New Year celebrations in February 2015
  - 7.2. approves an amount of \$1220 to cover travel costs associated with airfare, accommodation, incidentals.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment

**Supporting Attachment**

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**Finance**

1. The cost of Councillor Pinder-Mortimer's travel is estimated at \$1220 which includes \$700 for return airfare, \$350 for one night's accommodation and \$170 in incidental costs.
2. This amount 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. The purpose of the proposed travel relates to a number of objectives which underpin Council's business, tourism and cultural strategies and programs.

**Environmental sustainability**

6. The carbon emissions impact of flights will be reduced through the purchase of carbon offsets.