

**Report to Council**

**Agenda item 7.2**

**Proposed travel by Councillor Oke, ICLEI World Congress, Seoul, South Korea, April 2015**

**24 February 2015**

**Presenter: Councillor Cathy Oke**

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Councillor Cathy Oke to travel to Seoul, South Korea to attend the ICLEI World Congress between 8 and 12 April 2015.

**Key issues**

2. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is an organisation of over 1200 cities, towns, countries and associations which supports local governments around the world by building capacity to respond to global environmental issues through local action. The ICLEI World Congress occurs every three years to provide members and partners an opportunity to showcase actions over the period and discuss ideas and strategies for the following years.
3. The City of Melbourne is the host city for the ICLEI Oceania regional office and Councillor Oke is currently Chair of the Regional Executive Committee (RexCom) and ICLEI Oceania representative on the Global Executive Committee (GexCoM). Meetings of the ICLEI Council, RexCom and GexCom will take place on the first day of the World Congress and so Cr Oke's attendance is required.
4. Councillor Oke has been invited to participate at a number of events at the World Congress including:
  - 4.1. Speak at an interactive workshop on biodiversity and the changing climate where experts and local government will explore the role of biodiversity under and for a changing climate. The City of Melbourne's award winning Urban Forest Strategy offers a valuable model for other local governments to learn and replicate best practice in their own urban contexts. The workshop will provide valuable insights for the Urban Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy, the City of Melbourne's plan for maintaining a strong and diverse eco-system.
  - 4.2. Co-moderate a session 'Women Leaders Transforming Cities'.
  - 4.3. Speak at a session of the Urban Nature program 'Introduction - Biodiversity and water in cities'.
  - 4.4. Act as moderator at the Water Sub-Plenary.
5. An officer from Council's Sustainability branch will also be in attendance at the World Congress.
6. The cost associated with participation by Councillor Oke is estimated at \$2,390.50. This includes accommodation for five nights and incidental costs. Councillor Oke is privately funding airfares.

**Recommendation**

7. That Council:
  - 7.1. approves Councillor Oke's participation in the ICLEI World Congress 2015 between 8 and 12 April 2015
  - 7.2. approves an amount of \$2,390.50 to cover accommodation and incidental costs
  - 7.3. notes that Councillor Oke will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment

**Supporting Attachment**

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**Finance**

1. The cost associated with participation by Councillor Oke is estimated at \$2,390.50 and will be met from the existing budget allocation. This includes accommodation for five nights (\$1390.50) and incidental costs (\$1000). Councillor Oke is privately funding airfares.

**Conflict of interest**

2. 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**

3. 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.

**Environmental sustainability**

4. Councillor Oke's participation will enable her to promote Council's sustainability objectives and further enhance Melbourne's reputation as a leading sustainable city.
5. The Council's leadership role was recently recognised after being awarded the Victorian Medal for Landscape Architecture for the Urban Forest Strategy and Precinct.
6. The carbon emissions impact of flights will be reduced through the purchase of carbon offsets.