

**Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**

**Agenda item 7.1**

**Proposed travel, Councillor Jackie Watts, Smart Precincts and Innovation Hubs Summit and maritime heritage meetings, Sydney, May 2019**

**16 April 2019**

**Presenter:** Councillor Jackie Watts

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Councillor Jackie Watts to travel to Sydney to attend the Smart Precincts and Innovation Hubs Summit in May 2019.
2. Councillor Watts has been invited by the organisers, International Quality and Productivity Centre, to participate in the 2019 Summit and will deliver a presentation on Melbourne's Innovation Districts Plan.
3. Councillor Watts will also visit the Australian National Maritime Museum as part of ongoing work regarding maritime legacy outcomes for Melbourne.

**Key issues**

4. Smart precincts and innovation hubs play a significant role in driving economic growth and job creation. They have the power to create sustainable and connected cities that address urban challenges and are test beds for innovation.
5. Participants in the Summit will include representatives from government, academia, transport, utilities, business, science and innovation parks, construction and engineering. The theme of Councillor Watts' presentation will be 'Connecting spaces to drive the Knowledge Economy'. Councillor Watts will also participate in a panel discussion on governance and financing for innovation precincts.
6. Whilst in Sydney, Councillor Watts proposes to build on exchange and information sharing opportunities with representatives of the Australian National Maritime Museum as part of ongoing discussion around opportunities for maritime legacy outcomes in Melbourne.
7. As part of engagements, Councillor Watts will visit Wharf 7 Maritime Heritage Centre which has three permanent exhibitions of significant boats from the collections of the Australian National Maritime Museum and Sydney Heritage Fleet. The Australian Register of Historic Vessels is jointly managed by both organisations. It is a national project seeking to catalogue Australia's significant surviving historic watercraft.
8. If time permits, Councillor Watts proposes to meet with City of Sydney counterparts on matters relating to the Knowledge City portfolio.
9. The cost to Council associated with Councillor Watts' travel is estimated at \$1,990 which includes airfare, accommodation for two nights and incidentals.

**Recommendation**

10. That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the proposal by Councillor Jackie Watts to attend the Smart Precincts and Innovation Hubs Summit and to undertake a range of meetings in relation to maritime heritage matters at a cost to Council of \$1990.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 2)

## Supporting attachment

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### Finance

1. The cost to Council associated with Councillor Watts' travel is estimated at \$1,990 which includes airfare (\$1020.00), accommodation for two nights (\$602.60) and incidentals (\$367.40).

### 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.

### Health and Safety

3. Councillor Watts will undertake standard personal safety and awareness precautionary steps which apply to interstate travel.

### Relation to Council policy

4. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
5. In August 2017, the City of Melbourne, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and RMIT University, launched the Melbourne Innovation District. Precincts and hubs that bring together government and researchers, established industry and start-ups are important for research and contribute to prosperity in our city and our nation.
6. In line with the 2018-19 Annual Plan, Council has been advocating to Development Victoria to ensure that Melbourne's maritime heritage is considered as part of Harbour Esplanade and Victoria Harbour.

### Environmental sustainability

7. The carbon emission resulting from air travel will be offset with the purchase of credits.