

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.1

Proposed travel by Councillor Nicholas Reece, Sydney, November 2019.

29 October 2019

Presenter: Councillor Nicholas Reece

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Councillor Nicholas Reece to participate in the Public Space Design Forum in Sydney in November 2019.
2. Councillor Reece is Council's Chair, Planning portfolio and Deputy Chair Major Projects portfolio.

Key issues

3. Councillor Reece has been invited by the conference organisers to speak at the inaugural Public Space Design Forum on the topic 'Central Melbourne Design Guide – Clarity is key'.
4. The forum will provide a platform for discussion on policy and strategic planning for the design of new and existing public spaces. The agenda will feature a mix of policy driven sessions, interactive panel discussions and examples of best practice initiatives through a variety of case studies.
5. Some of the key speakers include:
 - 5.1. Alex O'Mara, Group Deputy Secretary, Place Design and Public Spaces, NSW Department of Planning and Environment
 - 5.2. Anna Bardsley, Associate Director of Policy and Research, Infrastructure Australia
 - 5.3. Ben Hewett, Acting NSW Government Architect
6. Participation in the forum will further promote Melbourne as a leading Design City.
7. Whilst in Sydney, Councillor Reece also proposes to hold meetings with representatives of City of Sydney on planning policy matters.
8. The cost to Council is estimated at \$1838 covering the cost of airfares, accommodation, ground transportation and incidental expenses.

Recommendation

9. That Council approves Councillor Nicholas Reece's proposal to travel to Sydney in November to speak at the Public Space Design Forum at a cost to Council estimated at \$1838.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

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

Finance

2. The cost to Council associated with Councillor Reece's travel to Sydney is estimated at \$1838. This includes airfare (\$1068), accommodation for one night (\$395) and incidental costs (\$375).

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.

Health and Safety

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

Relation to Council policy

5. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel costs accord with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
6. Participation in the conference aligns with initiatives contained under the Council Plan Goal 8 – A city planning for growth.

Environmental sustainability

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