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Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 29 October 2019

Agenda item title: * 6.6 Publishing tender recommendations

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Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

This proposal from management would represent the biggest backward step on council transparency over the past 3 years.

And where was the consultation with interested stakeholders?

As the former chair of the Finance and Government Committee who pushed for the switch from confidential to public in terms of the default position on tenders, I'm singularly unimpressed and unconvinced about this proposal.

Where was the email, meeting or phone call making the case on this issue before we reach the finality of a council decision – a decision to be made without the ability for stakeholders to present to councilors because it is being made

at a council meeting rather than a committee meeting.

If councilors are minded to proceed with this excessively secretive proposal, which has been justified in threadbare terms in the officer report (has there actually been a threat of litigation?), please defer this matter to a Future Melbourne Committee meeting at least a month from now so there is both time for consultation with stakeholders and an opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions to councilors setting out the case for retaining or tweaking the current system, rather than making this significant change.

Finally, I'd like to point out the dreadful timing of this proposal just days after some of Australia's biggest media companies have launched their national "Right To Know" campaign.

City of Melbourne is proudly Australia's most open and transparent council – it shows up the Federal and State government constantly with its excellent transparency on everything from your councilor expenses reporting, council reports on interstate travel, the conflicts of interest register, a flexible and frequent public questions regime, disclosures of individual land valuations and best practice disclosure with senior executive pay disclosure, just to name a few.

If having a default position to make tender decisions in open council gets up, what's next? Banning public questions? Ditching web casting? Returning to only maintaining website registers required by law?

Over the course of this current council you have generally supported this pro-disclosure regime and at times extended it, most notably with the excellent move to live web cast council and committee meetings.

The only other notable backward step, apart from this proposal, has been removing best practice granularity with related party transaction disclosure involving councilors, although this was in accordance with the accounting standards rather than being a conscious council decision to be more secretive.

Please think of the optics of this move in the wider context of council's excellent transparency reputation and the debate about increasingly secretive practices at other levels of government.

Bureaucrats all too often oppose transparency because they want to avoid embarrassment and scrutiny and want to maximise efficiency.

Writing most tender reports for decision in confidential sessions of council will mean less work for officers and less complexity in administration. And have you actually surveyed your tenderers to see if they support this move to provide them with less transparency in your decision making processes?

Imagine if judges came out and said we'd like to deliver all our judgments in closed sessions of the court, with a summary of the decisions to be released on a quarterly basis on the court's website.

There would be outrage, as there should be over this proposal to return to the pre-2012 Doyle era at Town Hall when City of Melbourne was one of Victoria's more secretive councils.

I look forward to listening to councilors push back on this proposal on Tuesday night. From time to time there was quite a bit of officer resistance to the transparency reform agenda pursued in the previous term of council and it is disappointing to see this proposal to go confidential on tenders has got this far.

Please don't endorse this proposal without at least having a more comprehensive consultation and explanation program first.

Regards

Stephen Mayne

Former City of Melbourne councilor

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Name: * Chris Thrum

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Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 29 October 2019

Agenda item title: * Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group This is a written submission in regards to Agenda Item 7.1 Proposed travel Councillor Nicholas Reece, Sydney Nov 2019. I support the recommendation from management that Councillor Nicholas Reece travels to Sydney to

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Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group

This is a written submission in regards to Agenda Item 7.1 Proposed travel Councillor Nicholas Reece, Sydney Nov 2019. I support the recommendation from management that Councillor Nicholas Reece travels to Sydney to speak at the Public Space Design Forum. Having meetings with representatives from Sydney concerning design can only enrich the knowledge of the City of Melbourne, making a brighter and better future for the citizens of Melbourne. With Melbourne going ahead in leaps and bounds in infrastructure projects it is important that Councillors and City of Melbourne representatives travel interstate and overseas to attend important meetings and forums about design to ensure City of Melbourne is advancing to a better situation.

Best regards

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Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 29 October 2019

Agenda item title: * 7.2 Post travel report by Councillor Rohan Leppert, Auckland, New Zealand August 2019

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Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group

This is a written submission in regards to Agenda Item 7.2 Post travel report by Councillor Rohan Leppert, Auckland, New Zealand August 2019. Many thanks to Councillor Rohan Leppert for travelling to New Zealand and discovering more about the public art practices there. Having read through the detailed report by Councillor Rohan Leppert what springs to the imagination is the potential for further public art investment along the waterfront from Princes Bridge and along Birrarung Marr. As Councillor Rohan Leppert discovered on his travels, public art on a greater scale can enrich and enliven a city.

Great examples of this public art philosophy at Auckland can be seen here –

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-policies/Documents/public-art->

[policy.pdf](#)

One artist represented in Auckland is Seung Yul Oh

<http://www.ohseungyul.com/>

Sculpture On The Gulf in New Zealand is another public sculptural art practice that is worth investigating.

<https://sotg.nz/>

Best regards

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