

13 December 2005**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF
MELBOURNE AND SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA****Committee** Business and Marketing Committee**Presenter** Cr Snedden**Purpose**

1. To propose the signing of a three year Cooperative Agreement between the City of Melbourne and the Southern Province of Sri Lanka and to endorse two project based Memoranda of Understanding.

Consideration at Committee

2. As a result of consideration by the Committee, the recommendation contained in the Management Report was amended to include a new paragraph 3.5.

Recommendation

3. That Council:
 - 3.1. approve in principle the signing of a three-year Cooperative Agreement between City of Melbourne and the Southern Province of Sri Lanka (“the Cooperative Agreement”), the Agreement to be reviewed in year three of its term;
 - 3.2. by instrument of delegation sealed by the Council under section 98(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, or the persons from time to time acting in that position, the authority to negotiate the terms of the Cooperative Agreement;
 - 3.3. request the Lord Mayor sign the Cooperative Agreement on behalf of the Council;
 - 3.4. note the execution of the project based MOU between City of Melbourne and North Dickwella Maha Vidyalaya Educational Development Foundation, and City of Melbourne and City of Galle, in accordance with information previously provided to Council;
 - 3.5. approve in principle the signing of a project based MOU between City of Melbourne and Hambantota District Council for the commissioning of the second Mobile Library Facility; and
 - 3.6. resolve that the instrument of delegation referred to in paragraph 3.2 of this report will cease and be of no further effect upon the signing of the Cooperative Agreement by the Lord Mayor.

Council Report Attachment:

1. [Business and Marketing Committee, Agenda Item 5.3, 6 December 2005](#)

6 December 2005

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF
MELBOURNE AND SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA**

Division Marketing & Customer Relations

Presenter Scott Chapman, Director Marketing & Customer Relations

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to propose the signing of a three-year Cooperative Agreement between the City of Melbourne and the Southern Province of Sri Lanka.
2. To seek the endorsement of the Committee for two project based Memoranda of Understanding between City of Melbourne and North Dickwella Maha Vidyalaya Educational Development Foundation; and, City of Melbourne and City of Galle.

Recommendation

3. That the Business and Marketing Committee recommend that Council:
 - 3.1. approve in principle the signing of a three-year Cooperative Agreement between City of Melbourne and the Southern Province of Sri Lanka (“the Cooperative Agreement”), the Agreement to be reviewed in year three of its term;
 - 3.2. by instrument of delegation sealed by the Council under section 98(1) *Local Government Act 1989* delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, or the persons from time to time acting in that position, the authority to negotiate the terms of the Cooperative Agreement;
 - 3.3. request the Lord Mayor sign the Cooperative Agreement on behalf of Council;
 - 3.4. note the execution of the project based MOU between City of Melbourne and North Dickwella Maha Vidyalaya Educational Development Foundation; and City of Melbourne and City of Galle, in accordance with information previously provided to Council; and
 - 3.5. resolve that the instrument of delegation referred to in paragraph 3.2 of this report will cease and be of no further effect upon the signing of the Cooperative Agreement by the Lord Mayor.

Key Issues

4. The City of Melbourne has a number of cooperative agreements including:
 - 4.1. Port Louis, Mauritius;
 - 4.2. Feng Xian District, China;
 - 4.3. Guangzhou, China; and
 - 4.4. Nanjing, China.

5. All Council's cooperative agreements work to establish links with communities and diplomatic organisations. They are time bound, project specific and include a review mechanism.
6. The City of Melbourne has played a significant role in facilitating the delivery of a number of tsunami reconstruction projects in Sri Lanka. These projects have been funded by a number of public donations totalling \$177,000.
7. Melbourne and Victoria have a substantial and active Sri Lankan community of approximately 30,000 residents. Their involvement in the community has created a long standing respect and affiliation with the people of Sri Lanka.
8. The proposed Cooperative Agreement:
 - 8.1. recognises the close and productive links that have grown between the Southern Province, Sri Lanka and the City of Melbourne as a result of the tragic and devastating consequences of the 2004 Tsunami;
 - 8.2. seeks to establish a framework for cooperation in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka;
 - 8.3. proposes that the City of Melbourne will establish and provide a framework for cooperation in the fields of education, training, health, sport and other pursuits to be mutually agreed by both parties; and
 - 8.4. proposes regular contacts will be maintained between each of the parties to this cooperative agreement to ensure the intent is fulfilled for the benefit of people in the Southern Province, Sri Lanka, and Melbourne.
9. City of Melbourne will play a liaison role in assisting the Southern Province to develop relationships with organisations in Melbourne to facilitate the Cooperative Agreement.
10. The project based MOU with North Dickwella Maha Vidyalaya Educational Development Foundation is operational in nature and is designed to facilitate the development of the school, and establish and implement, the appropriate monitoring mechanisms are established and implemented.
11. The project based MOU with the City of Galle is specifically related to the provision of a mobile library facility, the initial commissioning, and operation of the facility for the first two years.
12. The two project based MOUs outline how the delivery of the infrastructure components of the project will occur and detail the monitoring required so that the accountability of public funds can be substantiated.
13. The MOUs were executed to ensure that the momentum of the projects was not hindered whilst ensuring accountability issues were clear for all parties.

Time Frame

14. It is intended the Cooperative Agreement be signed prior to the 1st Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami on the 26 December 2005, with a term of three years.

Finance

15. It is anticipated that costs incurred by the City of Melbourne will be minimal, relating primarily to staffing costs to assist in the development of relationships and around \$20,000 per annum to facilitate any civic responsibility.

Legal

16. No direct legal issues arise from the recommendation to the report. Legal advice will be provided as required in respect to the implementation of the Cooperative Agreement.

Sustainability

17. This project has a number of social impacts for communities in Sri Lanka and also community groups here in Melbourne. The Cooperative Agreement will facilitate the engagement of a number of agencies, community organisations, and government bodies in collective efforts to improve the social welfare of individuals in the Tsunami effected region of Sri Lanka. The cross cultural benefits for both communities are significant, fostering greater understanding of cultural diversity.

Background

18. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004 caused devastation and destruction not seen in our lifetime. The Council and the Lord Mayor worked expediently to coordinate a meeting of key diplomatic and community agencies and established the Lord Mayors Tsunami Working Group.
19. Part of this initial response was also to donate \$300,000 to the Australian Red Cross for emergency aid in the affected areas, and \$200,000 in kind to support ongoing relief approved by Finance and Corporate Performance Committee on 22 February 2005.
20. Public donations from Tsunami Benefit Concert, City Edge Conference and other community fundraising activities were donated for the City of Melbourne to hold in trust for the delivery of tsunami rebuilding projects.
21. The City of Melbourne has been working collaboratively with a number of agencies, community organisations, and government bodies to facilitate outcomes in Sri Lanka. These include:
 - 21.1. HELP Sri Lanka Inc;
 - 21.2. The Shane Warne Foundation;
 - 21.3. The Lions Club of South East Business;
 - 21.4. The Australian Sri Lanka Business Council;
 - 21.5. The Athenaeum Library;
 - 21.6. Melbourne Girls Grammar School;
 - 21.7. St John's Primary School, East Melbourne; and
 - 21.8. Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund.
22. The Director Marketing & Customer Relations, visited Sri Lanka in March 2005 with members of Architects Without Frontiers to identify and scope out projects of significant need to which funds are to be directed. Progress has been very good to date with four out of the six projects being completed, the other two to be delivered in full before the end of June 2006.
23. A progress briefing was provided to a Councillor briefing on 8 July 2005 outlining the many activities both large and small that the City of Melbourne was involved with.

24. Council has sought to facilitate other relationships to ensure the sustainability of these assets. St John's Primary School, East Melbourne; and Melbourne Girls Grammar School have established sister school relationships with Matara (North Dickwella) High School and the Athenaeum Library with Library services in Galle and Hambantota.
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FINANCE ATTACHMENT

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF MELBOURNE AND
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Council has previously approved expenditure of \$300,000 cash to Red Cross Australia and a maximum of \$200,000 in kind to assist with Tsunami relief.

The \$300,000 cash donation was paid to Australian Red Cross in January 2005.

A total of \$186,384 of in kind assistance has been provided to community groups, and other organisations in support of Tsunami relief.

Council has provided staff time to assist in the delivery of these projects, but no other expenditure has been incurred.

As with other cooperative agreements council has initiated there is the requirement for some funds to service the relationships and networks. The majority of this will be from within existing budgetary allocations, however around \$20,000 per annum with need to be budgeted for from 06/07 for the life of the agreement to ensure civic responsibilities can be accommodated.

Funding will be subject to the normal budgeting processes.

Kerrie Jordan
Acting Manager Financial Services

LEGAL ATTACHMENT

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF MELBOURNE AND
SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA**

No direct legal issues arise from the recommendation to the report. Legal advice will be provided as required in respect to the implementation of the Cooperative Agreement.

Alison Lyon
Manager Legal & Governance