

Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.2

Proposed MCC Chair in Climate Resilient Cities

Council

Presenter: Geoff Lawler, Director City Planning and Infrastructure

25 November 2014

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne that the Council and the University jointly sponsor a five-year professorial appointment called MCC Chair in Climate Resilient Cities. The Chair would have access to all of the university's resources but work on research issues specific to the City of Melbourne.
2. At Attachment 2 is the Vice-Chancellor's letter to the Lord Mayor, enclosing details of the proposal.

Key issues

3. Funding of a professorial Chair would be a new activity for Council. An Australian precedent exists at Griffith University where two Chairs (Urban Management and Coastal Management) are fully funded by the City of Gold Coast.
4. No budget currently exists to support this proposal. New funding will be required in future budgets. The financial cost to Council will be limited to one-half of the salary, plus recruiting costs. This would total \$687,350 over five years commencing 1 July 2015.
5. The University's ambition is that the Chair will directly raise or facilitate generation of about \$1million per annum in research once the person has become established, especially after year 2.
6. It is requested that Council also commit to identifying ongoing opportunities for research support through Council programs and initiatives. A joint committee would oversee this alignment, as well as the recruitment of Chair.
7. The University is open to the inclusion of third-party sponsorship, if available.
8. The objectives of this proposal are consistent with Council's environment, knowledge and urban planning objectives and with Council's international engagement on these topics through the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, ICLEI and Rockefeller Foundation supported 100 Resilient Cities program.
9. Other universities may be critical of the exclusivity of this arrangement.

Recommendation from management

10. That Council:
 - 10.1. Accepts the proposal attached to this report to jointly sponsor a professorial appointment by the University of Melbourne called MCC Chair in Climate Resilient Cities for five years from 1 July 2015.
 - 10.2. Allocates \$137,470 for this purpose in each of the next five financial year budgets, commencing in the 2015-16 financial year.
 - 10.3. Nominates a Councillor and the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to represent Council on the joint committee that will govern the establishment and maintenance of the Chair.
 - 10.4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into an agreement to execute the proposal. The agreement is to include key performance indicators for research, teaching and community consultation.

Attachments:

1. Supporting attachment
2. Letter from Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. No employer obligations will attach to the Council. Council's funding will be executed and governed via a sponsorship agreement in accordance with the terms of the proposal put forward by the University of Melbourne.

Finance

2. The cost to Council of this proposal is a maximum of \$687,350.00 over five years commencing 1 July 2015.

Conflict of interest

3. The presenter of this report (Director City Planning and Infrastructure) is an unpaid member of two course advisory committees for the University of Melbourne.

Stakeholder consultation

4. Consultation has been undertaken with authorised representatives of the University of Melbourne

Relation to Council policy

5. The recommendation is consistent with Council's *Zero Net Emissions by 2020 strategy*, *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*, *Urban Forest Strategy*, *Total Water Mark- City as Catchment strategy* and *Knowledge Strategy*.

Environmental sustainability


6. This proposal will increase resources dedicated to solving long-term environmental sustainability issues for the city.



The Right Hon the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

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Attachment 2
Agenda item 6.2
Council
25 November 2014


Dear Mr Doyle,

Following our recent conversation, I am pleased to present Council with a proposal for a sponsored professorial appointment in the field of urban climate resilience.

The position would be formally entitled 'MCC Chair in Climate Resilient Cities' and supported through a co-sponsorship arrangement between Council and the University of Melbourne. The proposed terms of the co-sponsorship are detailed in the accompanying Annexure, which also describes the duties of the position and means for its governance. The spirit of the proposal is collaboration, with each party contributing a half-share of the cost of the post.

We are very excited by the prospect of this unique and timely collaboration between Council and the University. It addresses a key and shared strategic priority of our organisations: climate change, and the imperatives it raises for public policy, especially in cities. The collaboration recognises that city governments are primary agents of climate response, necessitating novel and complex policy responses that can be expected to tax the resources and capacities traditionally available to municipalities. Council has recognised the need for collaboration as means for strengthening its climate response capacities; for example through its membership of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities program.

The co-sponsored Chair would offer Council another powerful collaborative resource, particularly by providing a mechanism for connecting and thereby augmenting the considerable expertise in the field of climate resilience held by our organisations. The post would also offer a new key point of leadership that would better align the climate response efforts of both organisations. The MCC Chair would assist Council's elected and administrative leadership in asserting and enhancing Melbourne's national and international role as a leader in knowledge based urban climate response. As a Professorial position at the University of Melbourne, the successful appointee would have full access to the privileges and resources of the University. In particular, the capacity to win research grants, attract bright students in the research training degrees, and build a team of professionals working in urban climate resilience, will leverage the City's investment in this area.

The Chair has the full support of the University's leadership, including Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, James McCluskey, Provost Margaret Sheil, Dean of Architecture, Building and Planning Tom Kvan and Vice Principal Engagement Adrian Collette. If you think it helpful, I and Professor Brendan Gleeson, Director Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute would be delighted to discuss the proposal with your fellow Councillors and/or senior staff.

I recommend this proposal to you and to Council. I very much hope that we can forge the collaboration we outline as means to addressing one of the greatest human challenges of our time, the task of ensuring human safety and well-being in the face of rapid, large scale climate change.

Yours,


Glyn Davis
Vice-Chancellor

24 / 9 / 2014

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Annex.

MCC Chair in Climate Resilient Cities
A Collaboration between Melbourne City Council and
The University of Melbourne

1. Basis for the Collaboration

This collaboration brings together two parties with leading interests in urban resilience and climate change. It acknowledges the necessity of:

- a) action to strengthen Melbourne's resilience in the face of expected global warming;
- b) research that informs and enhances policy response to environmental change, in particular climate change;
- c) research and response that acknowledges the interdependencies of physical, social and economic factors in framing effective policy action to secure and enhance resilience.

Melbourne City Council (MCC) and the University of Melbourne (UoM) are recognised as leaders in metropolitan climate response.

Reflecting its pivotal metropolitan governance role, and membership of the global urban climate action networks – notably, c40 Group and Rockefeller 100 – MCC strives to lead effective response to climate change in Melbourne. The necessity of securing and enhancing urban and community resilience responds to the core historical rationale of local government.

As Australia's leading public university, UoM strives to unlock and apply its growing store of knowledge to the resolution of social, economic and environmental challenges. UoM has particular and internationally recognised expertise in climate science and climate change response, including policy action to mitigate hazards and enhance resilience in the face of global warming.

2. The Collaboration

The collaboration will begin with a sponsored **Chair in Climate Resilient Cities**. The initial term for the sponsorship is 5 years, with extension subject to the agreement of both parties. The Chair will provide a leadership nexus between both parties in the field of urban climate change and resilience. By establishing the Chair both parties seek to:

- a) connect and thereby augment their considerable expertise and resources in the fields of climate and resilience;
- b) improve urban climate science and policy response through collaboration and leadership;
- c) assert and enhance Melbourne's national and international role as a leader in knowledge based urban climate response;
- d) demonstrate the wider potential benefits of collaboration between Melbourne's leading government and university.

3. Resourcing and Governance

In the spirit of collaboration, both parties will invest equally in the Chair. MCC will provide sponsorship to cover 50% of the full salary costs of the Chair and will commit to identifying ongoing opportunities for research support through Council programs and initiatives. UoM will cover the remaining costs of the post, including appointment and housing expenses. The Chair will be jointly hosted and supported by the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute and the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. The Chair will report to Dean, ABP, but will be expected to play a cross campus role, helping to identify and link the considerable scholarly resources that UoM possesses in the fields of urban sustainability and resilience. A joint committee of UoM-MCC will govern the collaboration which establishes and maintains the Chair.

4. The Chair

The **Chair in Climate Resilient Cities** will be a scholar of international standing with a demonstrated ability to:

- a) engender and lead collaboration between the research and policy communities;
- b) foster research that anticipates and responds to policy necessities;
- c) provide high level, high quality advice to urban leadership;
- d) organise and deliver research based training that enhances governance capacity and policy response.

The Chair will be a point of advice and support for MCC leadership, including the Lord Mayor, in the field of urban climate change and resilience. UoM will appoint the Chair, with direct input from MCC.