

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 7.1

Proposed travel by Councillor Cathy Oke to host the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, November 2018

13 November 2018

Presenter: Councillor Cathy Oke

Purpose and background

1. Councillor Cathy Oke is the First Vice President of ICLEI, the second highest political representative within the ICLEI global association. Councillor Oke is also President of the Board of ICLEI World Secretariat and a member of the Global Executive Committee.
2. The purpose of this report is to seek Future Melbourne Committee approval for Councillor Cathy Oke to travel, in her capacity as First Vice President of ICLEI, to Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt to host the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments (Summit) and a series of high level meetings in November 2018.
3. The City of Melbourne is the host city for the ICLEI Oceania regional office. ICLEI is an organisation of over 1200 cities, towns, countries and associations which supports local governments around the world by building capacity to respond to global environmental issues through local action.

Key issues

4. In her capacity as First Vice President of ICLEI, Councillor Oke has been asked to represent ICLEI as host of the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. She has also been asked to host a series of high level meetings on behalf of ICLEI.
5. The Summit will gather governors, mayors and other subnational government leaders from around the world to engage directly with national leaders and their key stakeholders during the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 14). Engagements will focus on city and state level actions to mainstream biodiversity solutions into the new global developmental framework. Mainstreaming biodiversity into planning processes and economic sectors will be an important item of the CBD COP 14 agenda, and the Summit will link closely with these themes throughout the program.
6. The key Summit outcomes will include a communique/declaration on the local and subnational government constituency's ambition for the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework to be presented at the CBD COP 14 Plenary; announcement of new projects and initiatives; strengthened networks and partnerships; and a clear roadmap of action for local and subnational governments towards CBD COP 15 and the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.
7. In between First Vice President hosting duties and high level meetings for the CBD COP14, Councillor Oke has requested opportunities to present City of Melbourne's Nature in the City Strategy and Resilient Melbourne's Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy in the Summit program.
8. There is no cost to Council. Costs associated with Councillor Oke's participation in the Summit will be met by ICLEI (airfare, accommodation and local travel) and Councillor Oke (fees and incidentals).

Recommendation

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 9.1. Approves Councillor Cathy Oke's proposal to travel to Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt in November to host, on behalf of ICLEI, the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments at no cost to Council.
 - 9.2. Notes that Councillor Oke will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

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

Finance

2. There is no cost to Council. Funding for travel proposed in this report will be provided by ICLEI and Councillor Oke. ICLEI will fund accommodation in Sharm el-Sheik, local transfers and an economy airfare. Councillor Oke will fund incidental expenses.

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.

Relation to Council policy

4. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the proposed travel accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
5. The objectives of the proposed travel align with the Council Plan goal of *A City that cares for its environment* and a range of environmental and sustainability strategies and policies.

Occupational Health and Safety

6. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade offers the following advisory statement in relation to travel to Egypt:

“Egypt overall, reconsider your need to travel. Think seriously about whether you need to travel here due to the high level of risk. If you do travel, do your research and take a range of extra safety precautions, including having contingency plans.”

7. Councillor Oke has noted the advice and will take necessary precautionary steps as recommended through safety and awareness briefings arranged by Council officers.

Environmental sustainability

8. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to Sharm el-Sheik will be offset with the purchase of credits.