

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 7.2

Proposed travel by Councillor Philip Le Liu, Beijing, China, July 2019.

2 July 2019

Presenter: Councillor Philip Le Liu

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Future Melbourne Committee approval for Councillor Philip Le Liu to participate and represent the City of Melbourne in a series of meetings and delegations led by Melbourne Airport with the People's Republic of China (PRC) Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Beijing, China in July 2019.
2. Councillor Le Liu is Council's Chair, International Engagement portfolio and Deputy Chair Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio.

Key issues

3. Melbourne Airport has been presented with an opportunity to meet in Beijing with the PRC Ministry of Culture and Tourism to discuss future collaboration and support for the growing Chinese market in Melbourne.
4. At present, there are a large number of Chinese airlines with direct flights between China and Melbourne and this has resulted in strong growth in the tourism sector for Melbourne and Victoria.
5. To further enhance the relationship and encourage greater support for Melbourne as a preferred destination, a team led by Melbourne Airport's Chief Executive Officer will be undertaking the following in July to explore opportunities.
 - 5.1. Meetings with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's Vice-Minister and department head.
 - 5.2. Meetings with the several major Chinese airlines with head offices located in Beijing.
6. To help explore and maximise potential opportunities, Melbourne Airport has requested support from City of Melbourne through the following:
 - 6.1. A letter from the City of Melbourne welcoming a meeting and proposed dialogue with the Ministry's Vice-Minister and department head with advice that participation will include senior representation by Melbourne Airport and City of Melbourne.
 - 6.2. Participation by Councillor Le Liu as City of Melbourne's representative in these meetings by virtue of portfolio responsibilities which cover international engagement, tourism/visitation and culture. This is in line with the protocol of the Ministry when meeting with government officials.
7. The cost to Council will be no more than \$5000 covering the cost of airfares, accommodation, ground transportation and incidental expenses.

Recommendation

8. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 8.1. Approves Councillor Philip Le Liu's proposal to travel to Beijing, China in July to participate in a series of meetings led by Melbourne Airport with the People's Republic of China Ministry of Culture and Tourism at a cost to Council of no more than \$5000.
 - 8.2. Notes that Councillor Le Liu will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from Beijing, China.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The cost to Council associated with Councillor Le Liu's travel to Beijing, China will be up to \$5000 including airfares, accommodation, ground transportation and incidental expenses. The proposed travel costs will be met from within approved 2019–20 overseas travel budgets within Executive Services Group.

Conflict of interest

2. 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

3. The travel advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be noted and appropriate safety and awareness precautionary steps shall be undertaken by Councillor Le Liu.

Relation to Council policy

4. 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.
5. Participation in the meetings supports efforts and objectives aimed at fostering global business relationships, investment attraction and tourism for Melbourne.

Environmental sustainability

6. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to Beijing, China will be offset with the purchase of credits.