

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.1

Proposed travel by Deputy Lord Mayor, Arron Wood: Korea Foundation Program for Distinguished Guests, South Korea, September 2019

Council

Presenter: Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Arron Wood

27 August 2019

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Deputy Lord Mayor to travel to South Korea in September 2019 to participate in the Korea Foundation Program for Distinguished Guests.
2. In January 2019, the Deputy Lord Mayor was formally invited by Mr Sunghyo-Kim, Consul-General of the Republic of Korea to visit South Korea as a distinguished guest and participate in a program designed to enhance goodwill and friendship between Korea and the global community.
3. The program occurs throughout the year with different groups of professionals visiting Seoul. The groups range from Culture and Arts, Education, Media and Corporate and Economic Affairs. Guests are invited because they have been identified as a professional in their field. The Deputy Lord Mayor was invited to attend Seoul as part of the Governmental Affairs Group.

Key issues

4. The program will include a visit to relevant governmental organisations and cultural venues. In addition to the pre-arranged itinerary, the Deputy Lord Mayor will also be meeting with the Mayor of Seoul, Mr Won-soon Park to discuss the current challenges facing Seoul and learn from their approach to innovative waste solutions, public transport, open space, urban renewal, city safety and security and the health and wellbeing of their citizens. The Deputy Lord Mayor will also be visiting the local publishing house Indigo and Arirang News with the intent of promoting Melbourne as a tourist destination and desirable place for international study. The Deputy Lord Mayor will also address a leading university to provide a lecture on How the City of Melbourne is tackling climate change, population growth and smart cities.
5. Prior to the visit, the Deputy Lord Mayor will meet with The Hon. Martin Pakula, Minister of Tourism to discuss opportunities to strengthen Victoria's sister city relationship with Busan, South Korea.
6. The Deputy Lord Mayor will also meet with Melbourne Airport CEO Lyell Strambi to discuss possible direct flights from Melbourne to Seoul.
7. The program will be attended by current and former Mayors from other cities, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Directors and other professionals and leaders with extensive knowledge and experience in government from all over the world.
8. The organiser of the event, Korea Foundation will cover all costs including airfare, accommodation and ground transfer expenses for the Deputy Lord Mayor for the duration of the program.
9. The cost to Council will be approximately \$700 being incidentals for seven days.

Recommendation from management

10. That Council:
 - 10.1. Approves the Deputy Lord Mayor's proposal to travel to South Korea to attend the Korea Foundation Program for Distinguished Guests at a cost to Council of \$700 to cover incidental costs.
 - 10.2. Notes that the Deputy Lord Mayor will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The total estimated costs to Council associated with this travel proposal are approximately \$700. The Deputy Lord Mayor will be travelling alone.
2. The organiser of the event, Korea Foundation will cover all costs including airfare, accommodation and ground transfer expenses for the Deputy Lord Mayor for the duration of the program.

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.

Health and Safety

4. The Deputy Lord Mayor will undertake standard personal safety and awareness precautionary steps which apply to overseas travel.

Relation to Council policy

5. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.

Environmental sustainability

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