



CITY OF HOBART

AGENDA

SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING (OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING)

MONDAY, 7 MARCH 2016

AT 4.15 PM

THE MISSION

Our mission is to ensure good governance of our capital City.

THE VALUES

The Council is:

about people	We value people – our community, our customers and colleagues.
professional	We take pride in our work.
enterprising	We look for ways to create value.
responsive	We're accessible and focused on service.
inclusive	We respect diversity in people and ideas.
making a difference	We recognise that everything we do shapes Hobart's future.

**SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA
(OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING)
7/3/2016**

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**BUSINESS LISTED ON THE AGENDA IS TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE ORDER
IN WHICH IT IS SET OUT UNLESS THE COMMITTEE BY SIMPLE MAJORITY
DETERMINES OTHERWISE**

I, Nicholas David Heath, General Manager of the Hobart City Council, hereby certify that:

1. In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993, the reports in this agenda have been prepared by persons who have the qualifications or the experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendations included therein.
2. No interests have been notified, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, other than those that have been advised to the Council.



N.D. HEATH
GENERAL MANAGER

SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA (OPEN)

Committee Members

Deputy Lord Mayor Christie
(Chairman)

Zucco

Ruzicka

Thomas

Denison

Aldermen

Lord Mayor Hickey

Briscoe

Sexton

Burnet

Cocker

Cooper

Reynolds

Special Economic Development and Communications Committee (Open Portion of the Meeting) - Monday, 7 March 2016 at 4.15 pm in the Lady Osborne Room.

PRESENT:

APOLOGIES:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Alderman E R Ruzicka.

CO-OPTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY

Where a vacancy may exist from time to time on the Committee, the Local Government Act 1993 provides that the Council Committees may fill such a vacancy.

1. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the chairman of a meeting is to request Aldermen to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda.

In addition, in accordance with the Council's resolution of 14 April 2008, Aldermen are requested to indicate any conflicts of interest in accordance with the Aldermanic Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 27 August 2007.

Accordingly, Aldermen are requested to advise of pecuniary or conflicts of interest they may have in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the committee has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

2. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STRATEGY – FILE REF: 14-5-20

6x's

Report of the Group Manager Executive and Economic Development of 4 March 2016.

DELEGATION: Council

TO : The General Manager

FROM : The Group Manager Executive and Economic Development

DATE : 4 March, 2016

SUBJECT : **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STRATEGY - VISIT TO CHINA APRIL 2016**

FILE : 14-5-20 :TS (s:_data\economic development\council and committee reports\1_march 2015 onwards\economic development and communications\international\report for edc china delegation april 2016_final.docx)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's endorsement to send the Lord Mayor and up to three Aldermen to China in April 2016 for the purposes of a friendship city visit to coincide with 'Australia Week in China'.
- 1.2. It is noted that this visit was discussed by Aldermen at the *International Relations* workshop held on 3 March 2016.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Group Manager Executive and Economic Development has had a number of conversations with staff from the Department of State Growth in recent weeks and it is understood that an invitation will soon be sent from the Premier to the Lord Mayor inviting her to take part in a number of events in China during the week of 10th to 15th April 2016.
 - 2.1.1. It is noted that at the time of writing this report the formal letter had not been received.
- 2.2. It is understood that the Minister for the Arts, Vanessa Goodwin will also be participating. This particular week has been chosen as it is Australia Week in China and a number of Federal Ministers (and possibly the Prime Minister) will be hosting and attending key industry events across a number of Chinese cities in that week.
- 2.3. The State Government has resolved to participate in relevant Federal activities and also to coordinate some key events in its sister province of Fujian, to coincide with Australia Week in China.
- 2.4. The details of the program are still being finalised, however it is understood that the Premier is seeking the Lord Mayor's participation in events in both Fuzhou and in Shanghai.
 - 2.4.1. It is also understood that the Mayor of Launceston, Alderman van Zetten will be invited to participate.

- 2.4.2. In particular there will be '*Tasmania Week in Fujian*' activities on Monday 11 April, as well as a specific Tasmanian event in Shanghai later in the week as part of *Australia Week in China*.
- 2.5. The Council will recall that it has signed a letter of intent with Fujian's capital city, Fuzhou to become official friendship cities. This occurred in Hobart in April 2015 when Mayor Yang visited with a sizable delegation.
- 2.6. It is proposed that this visit could be used to finalise the arrangement and sign the official friendship agreement with Fuzhou.
- 2.7. Should the Council agree with this course of action, it is further submitted that up to three Aldermen should accompany the Lord Mayor, as well as the General Manager and his nominee, given the signing of a friendship agreement will occur.
- 2.8. The signing of a friendship agreement is a significant event for both cities. It is particularly so for a Chinese city as the Chinese central government must also approve the activity. Therefore it is important that Hobart is able to demonstrate its commitment to the relationship by sending a significant delegation to the signing event.
- 2.9. Given the overall cost of travelling to China, it is submitted that the Council may wish to also consider that the Lord Mayor and the General Manager undertake a brief side visit to the Council's first Chinese friendship city, Xi'an.
- 2.10. As of February this year, Xi'an now has a new mayor and it is suggested that this would be an important opportunity to meet the new mayor as well as an opportunity for the Lord Mayor to personally deliver a letter of invitation for the mayor of Xi'an to visit Hobart.
 - 2.10.1. Given the Council has visited Xi'an a number of times in recent years, it is proposed that this visit to Xi'an should only be very brief and with the single purpose of meeting the new mayor.
- 2.11. It is anticipated that a visit incorporating all of the above will be approximately 10 days.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1. It is proposed that the Council endorse a delegation led by the Lord Mayor to China in April 2016.
- 3.2. The primary purpose of the visit is to sign the formal friendship city agreement with Fuzhou.
- 3.3. The delegation comprise the Lord Mayor and up to three Aldermen.

- 3.3.1. Additionally, it is proposed that the General Manager and his nominee should participate.
- 3.4. Experience with previous visits to China has also demonstrated that the quality of the interpreter is a significant factor in the success of the delegation. Furthermore, a locally sourced interpreter means the Lord Mayor and Aldermen receive very accurate translations of conversations as well as subtleties in cultural behaviour and responses.
 - 3.4.1. It is proposed that the Council approve the use of a trained interpreter for the visit.
- 3.5. The delegation visit the cities of Fuzhou, Xi'an and Shanghai.
- 3.6. The details of the visit be finalised by the General Manager.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Council's 2015-2025 Strategic Plan, Goal 1, Strategic Objective 1.2 *Strong national and International relationships - 1.2.4 Support the Council' existing sister city relationships with Yaizu, L'Aquila and Xi'an and respond to new opportunities.*

5. COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 5.1. The pursuit of relations with Chinese cities is expected to deliver commercial outcomes for Government and the State's private sector, once the relationships are fully developed.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Funding Source(s)
 - 6.1.1. The proposed visit is unbudgeted, however it is expected that operational savings from the 2015 / 2016 year will be sufficient to allow the visit to proceed.
- 6.2. Impact on Current Year Operating Result
 - 6.2.1. The anticipated cost of return business class airfares and internal Chinese flights will be between \$6,200 and \$7,200 depending upon how quickly bookings can be made.
 - 6.2.2. The cost of economy class airfares would be approximately \$2,300.
 - 6.2.3. Cost of accommodation will be approximately \$3,000 per person.
- 6.3. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result

6.3.1. None arise from this report.

6.4. Asset Related Implications

6.4.1. None arise from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The risks of Hobart having international relationships and sister / friendship city visits have been discussed at length in previous reports.

7.2. Clearly the costs of a visit are significant and it is appropriate that the Council should feel that it has a duty to make the relationships worthwhile and of benefit to the community.

7.3. Already the relationship with Xi'an is yielding significant activity in the education sector which will lead to a flow of students and income into Hobart in the longer term.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None arise from this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

9.1. It is noted that air travel does have an environmental impact. If the Council wish, a carbon offset can be purchased with the flights.

9.2. Given the environmental impact of international travel, it is prudent for delegates from the City of Hobart to visit both Fuzhou and Xi'an whilst in China.

9.3. Recent visits to China have demonstrated that the country is taking steps to reduce its pollution issues. This is providing opportunities for Tasmanian enterprise through Hydro and Roaring Forties.

10. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. It is of social importance internationally that the City of Hobart fosters such relationships and makes informed choices about which cities it may want to collaborate with.

10.2. By the City having sister / friendship city agreements, it allows for a broader understanding of different cultures and communities. The challenge for the Council is to ensure that these relationships are ongoing and that there is a framework in place that ensures many people have a chance to contribute.

10.3. Hosting international delegations to the city exposes the community to people from other cultures which is important socially.

10.3.1. It also is a very strong sign of respect to those people within the community whose ancestry originates in the country visiting / being visited.

11. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

11.1. None arise from his report.

12. MARKETING AND BRANDING IMPLICATIONS

12.1. In China, Tasmania and Hobart have a very strong brand.

12.2. Every delegation is an opportunity to promote that brand and resultant opportunities.

13. COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA IMPLICATIONS

13.1. These will be arranged should Council approve the delegation.

13.2. It is noted that previous delegations have yielded significant media opportunities both locally and in China.

13.3. It is noted that the Lord Mayor's regular early morning 'phone-ins' from China to ABC radio Hobart are well regarded and informative for the community.

14. DELEGATION

14.1. The matter is one for the Council.

15. CONSULTATION

15.1. The General Manager.

16. COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENT

16.1. As noted earlier in this report, there has been significant communication with officers in the Department of State Growth.

17. CONCLUSION

17.1. This report has presented an opportunity for the Council to send a delegation to China in conjunction with the State Government as part of *Australia Week in China*.

17.2. The Premier will be formally inviting the Lord Mayor to participate in a number of activities in Fuzhou and in Shanghai.

17.3. The visit presents an opportunity to sign a formal friendship agreement with Fuzhou.

18. RECOMMENDATION

That:

18.1. The report :lek(s:_data\economic development\council and committee reports\1_march 2015 onwards\economic development and communications\international\report for edc china delegation april 2016_final.docx) be received and noted.

18.2. The Council endorse a delegation led by the Lord Mayor to China in April 2016 with the primary purpose of signing the formal friendship agreement with Fuzhou.

18.3. The cost of the delegation be funded from Council's operational savings.

18.4. The delegation comprise the Lord Mayor and up to three Aldermen.

18.4.1. Given the significance of the visit, the General Manager and another Council Officer attend.

18.4.2. The Council agree to meet the cost of a qualified interpreter to accompany the delegation.

18.5. The delegation visit the cities of Fuzhou, Xi'an and Shanghai.

18.6. .The details of the visit be finalised by the General Manager.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



(Tim Short)

GROUP MANAGER EXECUTIVE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT