



City of **HOBART**

Memorandum: Lord Mayor
Deputy Lord Mayor
Elected Members

Response to Question Without Notice

LORD MAYOR TRAVEL EXPENSES

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee Meeting date: 18 February 2020

Raised by: Alderman Behrakis

Question:

What is the total number of official engagements or events (including interstate and overseas) that the Lord Mayor has attended since the last election for the year (November 2018 to October 2019) and what was the full cost?

As per the Council's website:

- (a) For the period November 2018 to October 2019, Lord Mayor Reynolds undertook the following travel:

May 2019: Future Cities Summit, Sydney - \$909.82;

May 2019: LGAT Meeting, Launceston -\$379.08;

June 2019: CCCLM, Brisbane – No Cost to Council;

July 2019: CCCLM Asia Pacific Summit, Brisbane - \$801.31;

September 2019: CCCLM, Canberra - \$1,469.09;

October 2019: CCCLM, Melbourne - \$974.09;

October 2019: CCCLM, Seoul – No Cost to Council.

- (b) The cost of transport to and from those events (including airfares) for the current Lord Mayor and the mode (Uber, taxi, plane, personal transport or otherwise) was \$2,102.00;

The cost of transport (Uber/Taxi) claimed as an elected member as per the budget was \$885.09;

The cost of airfares for the period November 2018 to October 2019 was \$2,365.45.

The Lord Mayor claimed a total of \$354.00 in fuel expenses.

- (i) Do these figures represent the full cost as for example the May 2019 event in Sydney where the registration cost was over \$800.00?
- (ii) Have these figures been audited as these figures do not show the cost of any local events except the LGAT meeting?

Response:

The total number of official engagements or events (including interstate and overseas) that the Lord Mayor has attended since the election for the year November 2018 to October 2019 is 227.

The full cost to Council was \$6,858.39.

The costs set out in the question at (a) above represent the full cost to Council associated with the Lord Mayor's attendance at each of the events listed.

The attribution of costs set out in the question at (b) above is not accurate. The cost of \$2,102.00 is for transport (uber/taxi) to and from events/functions in the role of Lord Mayor. This figure does not include airfares. Airfares are separately costed within the figures provided at (b) and total \$2,365.45.

The Office of the Lord Mayor cannot confirm whether the registration fee for the Futures Cities Summit held in Sydney in May 2019 was \$800 because the City did not pay any fee. The Lord Mayor was an invited speaker asked to participate on a panel of Lord Mayors and so there was no registration fee levied for the Lord Mayor's participation.

The figures presented (a) are detailed on the travel register as costs incurred by elected members while travelling interstate and overseas on Council business. Whilst it doesn't meet the requirement for disclosure (not being interstate or overseas travel) the intrastate LGAT meeting was included to show the accommodation expense incurred.

Any costs associated with events or appointments within Hobart (Uber, metro fare, personal vehicle use or event costs) are costed to the Council's budget line items as they are for all elected members. The costs incurred by the Lord Mayor, or any other elected member, while undertaking their role are not independently subject to audit other than the annual audit of the Council's finances by the Tasmanian Audit Office.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Heath', written in a cursive style.

N D Heath
GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 19 May 2020
File Reference: F20/23557; 13-1-10