



CITY OF HOBART

AGENDA

Economic Development & Communications Committee Meeting

Open Portion

Thursday, 27 August 2020

at 4:30 pm

THE MISSION

Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

THE VALUES

The Council is:

People	We care about people – our community, our customers and colleagues.
Teamwork	We collaborate both within the organisation and with external stakeholders drawing on skills and expertise for the benefit of our community.
Focus and Direction	We have clear goals and plans to achieve sustainable social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Hobart community.
Creativity and Innovation	We embrace new approaches and continuously improve to achieve better outcomes for our community.
Accountability	We are transparent, work to high ethical and professional standards and are accountable for delivering outcomes for our community.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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**Economic Development & Communications Committee Meeting (Open Portion)
held Thursday, 27 August 2020 at 4:30 pm.**

This meeting of the Economic Development and Communications Committee is held in accordance with a Notice issued by the Premier on 3 April 2020 under section 18 of the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020*.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thomas (Chairman)
Zucco
Sexton
Dutta
Ewin

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

NON-MEMBERS

Lord Mayor Reynolds
Deputy Lord Mayor Burnet
Briscoe
Harvey
Behrakis
Sherlock
Coats

**1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A
VACANCY**

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Open Portion of the Economic Development & Communications Committee meeting held on [Thursday, 30 July 2020](#), are submitted for confirming as an accurate record.

3. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Recommendation

That the Committee resolve to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager.

4. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Members of the committee are requested to indicate where they may have any pecuniary or conflict of interest in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the committee has resolved to deal with.

5. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

A committee may close a part of a meeting to the public where a matter to be discussed falls within 15(2) of the above regulations.

In the event that the committee transfer an item to the closed portion, the reasons for doing so should be stated.

Are there any items which should be transferred from this agenda to the closed portion of the agenda, or from the closed to the open portion of the agenda?

6. REPORTS

6.1 International Measurement System Demonstration File Ref: F20/26977

Memorandum of the Senior Advisor Economic Development, Manager
Economic Development Engagement & Strategy and Director
Community Life of 20 August 2020.

Delegation: Committee



City of **HOBART**

MEMORANDUM: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

International Measurement System Demonstration

The City of Hobart currently has four established international relationships and has committed to a long term relationship with the village of Balibó in Timor-Leste. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the Council also resolved to investigate potential relationships with Jiri (Nepal), Kochi (India) and Incheon (South Korea). Council operations in this space are guided by the International Relations Action Plan, first endorsed by Council on 9 May 2016, reported against annually and amended annually to ensure continued relevance.

The continued support and development of these relationships requires officer time, as well as funding to host delegations, visit cities and deliver projects in partnership with our community or with the objective of promoting wider awareness within our community.

Given current limitations on international travel, the financial position the Council faces and the needs of the community at this time, it has never been more important to ensure that decision making in this space is as robust as possible.

The City of Hobart sees an opportunity to be a leader when it comes to the measurement of value of international relationships. Extensive desk research as well as national and international conversations have uncovered no local government owned empirical tool that can measure the value of international relationships for the purposes of decision making and comparison.

With this in mind, the Council on 10 October 2019 resolved:

- That:*
- 1. The Council notes that RMIT and ACELG (now ALGA) are not contributing academic work to analyse the qualitative and quantitative value of Australian local government international city to city relationships.*
 - 2. The Council authorises the engagement of Professor Peter Frappell to develop a robust system to measure the value of the City's current and future international relationships.*
 - 3. The cost of the measurement system be no more than \$21,000 excluding GST, to be attributed to the Economic Development Budget Function in the 2019-20 Annual Plan.*

To date \$15,750 excluding GST has been expended with Emeritus Professor Peter Frappell who has worked with officer feedback to develop a measurement tool. He will present the most recent version of this tool to the committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

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.



Lucy Knott
**SENIOR ADVISOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE



Luke Doyle
**MANAGER ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT &
STRATEGY**

Date: 20 August 2020
File Reference: F20/26977

6.2 International Relations Review
File Ref: F20/40406

Report of the Senior Advisor Economic Development, Manager
Economic Development Engagement & Strategy and Director
Community Life of 21 August 2020 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REVIEW

REPORT PROVIDED BY: Senior Advisor Economic Development
Manager Economic Development Engagement &
Strategy
Director Community Life

1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of international relations activities that took place from June 2019 to the present, in line with the Council endorsed International Relations Action Plan (IRAP).
- 1.2. This review of activities normally takes place in May each year but this was unable to take place this year as Council committees were not operating as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, a summary of May 2019 - August 2020 activities will occur.
- 1.3. Given the unprecedented circumstances within which the Council is now operating as a result of COVID-19, this report will provide clarity to the community about the Council's short term intentions when it comes to its international relationships.
- 1.4. Another community benefit of this report is that it provides a summary of activities relating to international relations that have been completed over the last 15 months.

The activities were guided by the IRAP, a plan that was created specifically to ensure that community value is delivered by Hobart's international relationships.

2. Report Summary

- 2.1. This report presents all activities delivered with the guidance of the International Relations Action Plan (IRAP) over the last 15 months (May 2019 to August 2020).
- 2.2. It also summarises activities that occurred outside the parameters of the IRAP but were considered appropriate as they assisted significant partner organisations achieve their international engagement goals.
- 2.3. Traditionally this report has recommended changes to the IRAP based on a year of reflection and practical delivery. This year it is proposed that this is delayed.
- 2.4. COVID-19 has had an immeasurable impact upon the City's international relationships, predominantly because of travel restrictions and reduced budgets. Given the uncertain nature of the pandemic in terms of further outbreaks and social and economic repercussions, it seems unwise to make strategic decisions at this point.

- 2.5. It is further proposed that major operational activities relating to existing relationships are also paused for six months (until March 2021). Should the circumstances surrounding the pandemic have changed significantly by this point, it allows adequate time for officers to incorporate international relations activities into the 2021–22 budget.
- 2.6. The City was asked to investigate relationships with three cities (Jiri in Nepal, Kochi in India and Incheon in South Korea) and consider the future of the existing relationship with Xi'an in China. It is also proposed that these activities are paused until March 2021. This is mainly because it is felt that these cities, like Hobart are currently focussed on assisting their communities through the pandemic which gives them little capacity to make strategic decisions.
- 2.7. This report has traditionally listed anticipated activities for the year coming. Given the constantly changing situation with respect to COVID-19, it is felt that now is an inappropriate time to be planning international projects and visits.
- 2.8. The City's Economic Development Unit primary focus in the short term will be on local businesses and how they might be supported through further crisis and recovery phases of COVID-19.
- 2.9. Contact with international cities with which the City has existing or investigative relationships will be maintained through Council officers, but it is proposed that major activities will be paused until March 2021.

3. Recommendation

That:

- 1. The Council receives the progress report against the current International Relations Action Plan 2018.***
- 2. Strategic decisions relating to existing and new international relationships are deferred, to be considered in March 2021.***
- 3. Major operational activities relating to existing and potential new international relationships are paused until March 2021.***
- 4. The Lord Mayor contacts the cities of Yaizu (Japan), L'Aquila (Italy), Xi'an (China), Fuzhou (China), Balibó (Timor-Leste), Incheon (South-Korea), Jiri (Nepal) and Kochi (India) to advise them of the Council's pause in activity.***
- 5. The Council notes the Economic Development Unit's current focus on supporting local businesses through COVID-19 crisis and recovery phases.***

4. Background

- 4.1. The International Relations Action Plan (IRAP) was first endorsed by the Council on 9 May 2016.
- 4.2. This plan informs the nature of the City's international relationships and provides strategic direction.
- 4.3. The current version of the IRAP (as amended in 2018) is included in this report as **Attachment A**.

COVID-19

- 4.4. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the way in which the City's international relationships have been conducted has been severe. This year for example, has been the first time in 31 years that students have not travelled to Hobart from sister city Yaizu. Planning for other potential visits such as a youth soccer team from Fuzhou and the Mayors and youth ambassadors from the other four global Antarctic gateway cities have also been halted. These activities have been curtailed as a result of travel restrictions but also as a result of the financial position of the Council.
- 4.5. The Council is facing a forecasted drop in revenue of \$17.94M in the 2020–21 financial year and as a result has needed to make savings of \$5.11M. In order to make this saving, many budgets have been reduced, including the international relations budget. There is no budget this financial year to support the City's international relationships (existing and potential) beyond officer time.
- 4.6. Travel and budgetary constraints must be front of mind for elected members when making decisions relating to the City's international existing and potential relations.

Existing Relationships

- 4.7. The City of Hobart has four formal international relationships and a relationship in development. These are provided below with observations about how the pandemic is affecting life in each place:
 - **Sister City with Yaizu, Japan**, established in 1977. The origins of this began with the tuna fishing fleets from Yaizu harbouring in Hobart during the 1960s and 1970s. Because of regular and long visits from the fishermen, business and personal connections started to form between Hobart and Yaizu. The relationship has continued to operate via cultural exchanges and student visits (the student exchange program reached its 30th year in July 2019).

In Yaizu, people must currently wear face masks in public areas which can be removed if people are standing apart. Public facilities in the Shizuoka prefecture within which Yaizu is situated are governed by restrictions around the number of people that can

assemble, measurement of body temperature, physical distancing and using hand sanitiser. The Shizuoka prefecture (similar to State Government) also has set restrictions on which prefectures can be visited and can in turn visit the region. As school has been closed for a long time this year, the long summer holiday has been reduced to two weeks. Children at school must wear face masks when in class. There are other government guidelines for shops, restaurants, cinemas etc. but they are not enforceable.

- **Sister City with L'Aquila, Italy**, established in 1997. This region is where the majority of the early Italian immigrants to Tasmania originated. Members of the local Hobart Abruzzese community initiated the development of this relationship and continue to be its driving force. Three generations of the Abruzzese community often come together to celebrate the links between the Abruzzo region of Italy and Hobart.

Information from the local government in L'Aquila is that the instances of COVID-19 in L'Aquila are few and currently under control. Hotels and restaurants are open with people required to observe physical distancing and wear masks. Shops are open with limits on the number of patrons as well as requirements to use hand sanitiser and wear masks. In outdoor spaces, masks are not mandatory although sporting clubs are currently still closed. Schooling was web based until June when the summer holidays commenced. It is intended that students will be returning to school for the new term commencing on 14 September. At school, desks will be spaced apart and students will be required to use hand sanitiser and wear face masks.

The Abruzzese Association of Hobart has confirmed that the most significant annual festival in L'Aquila - the [Perdonanza Celestiniana](#) is going ahead for the 726th year, no doubt on a lesser scale.

- **Friendship City with Xi'an, China**, established in 2015. The City of Xi'an is the ancient capital of China and home of the world famous Terracotta Army. Areas identified for cultural, knowledge and economic cooperation were science and technology, education, aquaculture, agriculture and tourism. Education has been the most successful area for collaboration during the relationship.

As is normal with friendship agreements, the five year commitment between Hobart and Xi'an expired in March 2020, although recent correspondence with Xi'an suggests that the desire is to continue the formal friendship.

At the time of writing this report, the City of Hobart had not heard back from Xi'an about how life has been affected.

- **Friendship City with Fuzhou, China**, established in 2017. Fuzhou approached the City of Hobart to consider a friendship relationship. Fuzhou, like Hobart is a coastal city bordering a mountainous region. Fuzhou is the capital of the Fujian Province which has been Tasmania's sister state since 1981. There is an active community in Hobart from the Fujian Province. A number of successful projects have been delivered with Fuzhou, largely around sport and education.

Fuzhou has reported that life is getting back to normal. People don't need to wear a face mask in open spaces but do in supermarkets, cinemas, small closed spaces and on public transport. Public gatherings are starting to take place but they are smaller than in previous years. Restaurants have been open for several months and cinemas opened last month but with gaps between seats. Schools opened for a month in June and closed for the summer holidays. Like previous years, they are expected to open on 1 September.

- 4.8. As above, the most significant difference between a 'sister city' and a 'friendship city' in these circumstances is that the friendship city agreements are not ongoing, they have a clause at five years that allows either city to leave the relationship.

Balibó

- 4.9. The City of Hobart on 23 April 2018 resolved inter alia to commit to a long term relationship with the village of Balibó (in Timor-Leste). The Council is yet to endorse a project to be delivered between Hobart and Balibó.
- 4.10. A report was brought to the Economic Development and Communications Committee on 21 November 2019 providing a detailed budget and implementation plan for a project focusing on educating school children in Balibó on the environmental issues associated with single use plastics.

Concerns were expressed by the Committee and the Council about the size of the proposed project in financial terms.

- 4.11. In response to the above concerns, a report had been prepared for the Economic Development and Communications Committee on March 26, 2020. This report proposed a smaller scale pilot project. This committee was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.12. The Council now finds itself operating in a different economic and social climate to when the original project and pilot project were scoped and costed.
- 4.13. As with the new relationships, it is proposed that any further actions relating to a potential pilot project are paused until March 2021.

- 4.14. The Timor-Leste Friendship Network (TLFN) has a long and active history of supporting Timor-Leste that commenced prior to 1975. They also made the initial suggestion about a relationship between Hobart and Balibó following their visit in 2017. They had committed to lead on community fund raising activities (with assistance from the City of Hobart) to enable the pilot to be delivered.
- 4.15. The TLFN are aware of the financial position of the Council and the pressure facing local businesses and are supportive of the pause of this project until March 2021.
- 4.16. The project delivery organisation [Bottle for Botoi](#) is also aware and understanding of this position as they themselves have a number of projects in the delivery phase that have been paused.

Impact of COVID-19 on Timor-Leste

- 4.17. A recent [article](#) published by the University of Melbourne summarises the situation and response of Timor-Leste well.
- 4.18. There are currently no active cases in the country and to date, no deaths have been recorded. Only 24 cases have been recorded in total and these have arisen as a result of students returning from studying in Indonesia.
- 4.19. The country declared a state of emergency on 28 March and this ended toward the end of June. Land and air borders are opened once per week with a two week quarantine for incoming passengers.
- 4.20. Citizens received support packages including soap, eggs and rice from non-government organisations and households earning less than \$500 USD per month were eligible for a monthly subsidy of \$100 USD p/m from the government.
- 4.21. As with many countries, the social and economic costs of declaring a state of emergency has been high. Many businesses have had to downsize or close and the burden of caring for school age children and other family members has predominantly fallen on women and young girls. There are also concerns about increased incidences of domestic violence.
- 4.22. Although Timor-Leste appears to have the COVID-19 situation in hand, there are concerns about the border it shares with West-Timor which has seen higher numbers. As has been seen as locally as Victoria, the situation can change from positive to dire very quickly.

New Relationships

4.23. The Council on 2 December 2019 resolved:

That

1. *The Council endorse the shortlisted cities of Incheon (South Korea), Kochi (India) and Jiri (Nepal) to be explored further for formal relationships.*

(i) A further report to be provided to the Council on the findings.

4.24. The Lord Mayor wrote to each of the three cities on 3 February 2020 to advise them of the Council decision and enquire whether there was any interest on their part to further investigate a relationship.

4.25. A response was received from the Mayor of Jiri on 7 February 2020 expressing a keen interest in establishing a relationship. The Lord Mayor responded once more to the Mayor of Jiri on 8 April 2020. This letter recommended that the City of Jiri contacted the Senior Advisor Economic Development at the Council to further discuss the matter. To date, the Senior Advisor Economic Development has not been contacted by a representative of Jiri.

A Council officer made enquiries in August about the impact of COVID-19 on the community in Jiri. A prompt response via the Honorary Consul-General of Nepal in New South Wales was received from the Mayor of Jiri (**Attachment B**). To date, there have been no cases of COVID-19 in Jiri.

4.26. The relationship between Kochi and Hobart has received significant support from the Indian community in Greater Hobart. Prior to the Council decision, Council officers received letters of support from:

- Hibi Ebdon (Member of Parliament – Kerala)
- Dr K. N. Madhusoodanan (Vice-Chancellor of the Cochin University of Science and Technology)
- Sunny Malayil (President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cochin)

The initial letter from the Lord Mayor did not reach the Mayor of Kochi but this was re-sent on 28 February. The City of Hobart is still to hear from the Mayor of Kochi in response.

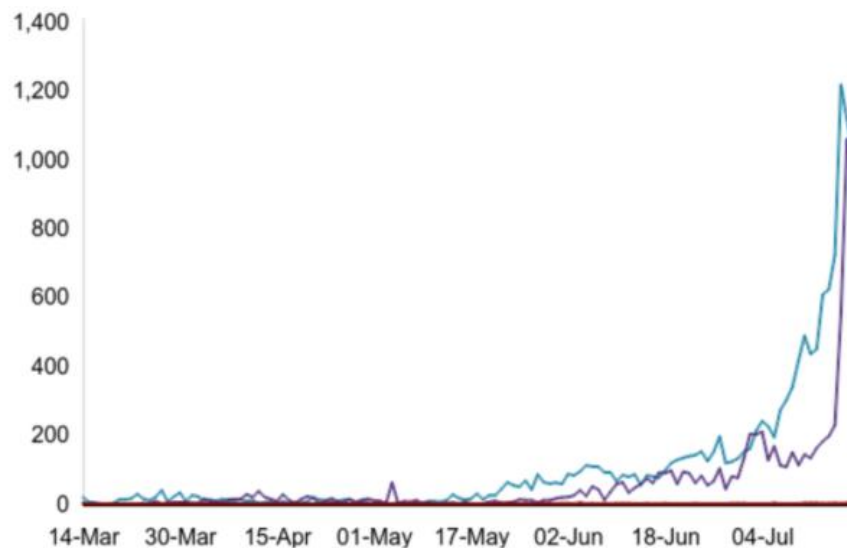
A contact in Hobart with significant connections in Kochi recently provided information on the impact of the pandemic on the city. The state of Kerala within which the city of Kochi is based

It seems that Kerala initially contained the pandemic well. The [Guardian](#) newspaper reported only 524 up to May. Unfortunately, as reported by the [BBC](#), by 20 July the caseload had exceeded 12,000 as demonstrated in the graph below:

Kerala's case numbers are rising fast

Reported cases, recoveries and deaths, 14 March to 19 July

— Daily cases — Daily recoveries — Daily deaths



Source: India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

BBC

- 4.27. The City has not to date received a response from the city of Incheon.
- 4.28. There are concerns that the contact details of the Mayor of Incheon are incorrect. Confirmation of the correct details are currently being sought.

The website of Incheon Metropolitan City Council regularly reports cases of COVID-19. The [latest report](#) below of 14 August shows relatively low numbers for a city of almost 3 million people.

Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Testing in progress	Under Self-quarantine
393 (+3)	379 (+3)	324 (+14)	1,861
*Hospitalized: 11 Deceased: 3			

- 4.29. Given the ongoing impact of the pandemic on international travel, the financial position of the Council and the likely focus of cities on responding to COVID-19 rather than considering strategic matters, it is proposed that the City pauses further investigation of these relationships until March 2021.

International Activities - June 2019 – August 2020**4.30. June**

- A team of 14 paddlers from Greater Hobart travelled to Hobart's friendship city of Fuzhou (China) to take part in a dragon boat festival 6–7 June 2019. This visit was brokered and supported by an officer at the City of Hobart.

As a result of the city to city friendship, the Fuzhou Municipal Sports Bureau provided funding (hotels, local transfers and meals) for the team for four nights to support their participation. This was the first time that an Australian team has been involved in the festival thanks to the Hobart-Fuzhou relationship.

A presentation was received by the Economic Development and Communications committee from two attending paddlers on 20 June 2019.

Discussions were had about welcoming a dragon boat team to Hobart in March 2021 for a similar experience. As a result of the impacts of the pandemic however, these conversations have halted.

4.31. July

- Eight students and two adults from Yaizu visited Hobart for a week and were home hosted by Mount Carmel College students. This was coordinated by the City of Hobart and was the 30th year of student exchange between Yaizu and Hobart.

The City also coordinated a day excursion to Bonorong Park for the Yaizu students and their host sisters. An afternoon tea reception was hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor at the Town Hall, welcoming the Yaizu students and thanking their host families. The students also visited Government House.

This arrangement over the years has resulted in students from Hobart schools forming enduring friendships with students from Yaizu, continuing their studies of Japanese at University and working as English teachers in Yaizu.

For the first year, the City of Hobart commissioned community artist Sara Wright to work with the Yaizu students and their host students from Mt Carmel College. The project was commissioned to celebrate the 30 year milestone of international student exchange as part of the Hobart Yaizu sister city relationship, now in its 42nd year. Sara designed a series of creative workshops to encourage the students to contemplate their cultural exchange experience more deeply. They created a uniquely imaginative 'shodo' symbol (a traditional Japanese character). The symbol translates to "with gratitude, our dreams

become real". The works are currently being displayed on the City's Soapbox billboards, overlooking Mathers Place. See below:



- Six teachers and ten students from Fuzhou Number 8 Middle School visited their sister school Hobart College.

The friendship between the two institutions was established 13 years ago with a visit taking place each year. The Deputy Lord Mayor hosted an afternoon tea for the students in the Lord Mayor's Courtroom.

4.32. August

- Discussions were had with Ms Masako Sawada (Japanese Tour Guide) about a Rosny College (Taiko Drummer) visit to Japan (including Yaizu) in March 2021. As a result of the impacts of COVID-19, these discussions have halted.

4.33. September

- A delegation of 18 from South Hobart Football Club took part in an international youth sister city soccer tournament in Fuzhou.

This was brokered and supported by the City of Hobart and would not have taken place without the friendship city relationship between Hobart and Fuzhou.

The Fuzhou Municipal Sports Bureau provided funding (hotels, local transfers and meals) for five nights.

The under 14 and 15 players were able to compete against a team from Fuzhou and Fuzhou's friendship city of Nagasaki (Japan).

Additional to the tournament, the delegation from South Hobart partook in a number of cultural activities organised by Fuzhou such as visiting a Buddhist temple and mid-Autumn festival activities.

Feedback from South Hobart Football Club was that this was an ideal opportunity for many of the players to play overseas for the first time. They also made friendships that transcended language barriers and acquired cultural knowledge that will benefit them for a lifetime.

A presentation was given by the South Hobart Football Club to the Economic Development and Communications Committee on 26 September 2019.

- Two elected members and a senior officer from the City of Hobart travelled to Xi'an to take part in the Euro-Asia Economic Forum and discussions about the future of the relationship (given that the five year agreement was due to expire in March 2020).

Mr Qiang Sheng – Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Xi'an Municipal People's Government expressed the desire to reinvigorate the relationship and suggested that Xi'an travel to Hobart to reaffirm the relationship in 2020. Given the

travel restrictions that have been imposed as a result of COVID-19, a delegation from Xi'an has been unable to travel.

The City of Hobart did receive a letter from Xi'an in June 2020 suggesting a number of educationally focussed projects that both cities could collaborate on. The Director of Community Life responded suggesting that the projects were of interest but that in the absence of a visit from Xi'an, a discussion of the future of the relationship was preferable before any projects were advanced.

- The Manager Economic Development, Engagement and Strategy from the City of Hobart took part in the Sister Cities Australia Forum in Perth and took part in round table discussions focussed on:
 - Funding for sister cities – how to manage with less.
 - Overcoming a negative media image.
 - Working within politically charged countries.
 - How do you 'withdraw gracefully' from a sister city relationship?

The forum also included award presentations and group presentations on the significance of international relations, culminating in the AGM.

4.34. **October**

- Groups of students and teachers from Mount Carmel and St Virgil's colleges visited Yaizu. This would not take place without the sister city relationship between Hobart and Yaizu.
- The 10th Opening of the Antarctic Season Reception was hosted by the City of Hobart in the ballroom of the Town Hall. Approximately 200 people attended, including American (NASA) personnel, City of Hobart International Student Ambassadors and international member states of CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources).

According to the latest research commissioned by the Tasmanian Polar Network, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector contributes \$180M per annum to the Tasmanian economy. The City of Hobart recognises the value of this sector by organising the Antarctic Reception to honour the out-bound expeditioners. This assists partners such as Antarctic Tasmania (a dedicated unit within the Tasmanian Government) and the Tasmanian Polar Network in fulfilling their objectives around

engagement with the Australian and other national Antarctic programs.

4.35. **November**

- The Australia Japan Society (Tasmania) hosted celebrations for Japanese Culture Day in the Lord Mayor's Courtroom. The Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne Mr Kazuyoshi Matsunaga attended the event in addition to elected members and officers from the City of Hobart.
- A City of Hobart officer attended a dinner to welcome the Chinese Antarctic vessel (the Xue Long 2 Icebreaker). This was hosted by the Tasmanian Government.
- The Council requested that new potential international relationships for the City of Hobart were investigated. 61 cities around the world were investigated with a short list of four recommended. This involved significant research and consultation with stakeholders such as the University of Tasmania and multi-cultural groups in the Greater Hobart area.

Four cities were shortlisted for further investigation. As set out in this report, these were Jiri (Nepal), Kochi (India) and Incheon (South Korea).

4.36. **January 2020**

- Elected members and a Council officer attended a farewell event for the outgoing Ambassador of Timor Leste to Australia (His Excellency Abel Guterres). Abel Guterres was very supportive of the ties between Tasmania and Timor-Leste that originated during World War II when Sparrow Force (the majority of which were from the Tasmanian 2/40th Infantry Battalion) together held up a Japanese invasion for three weeks, preventing an invasion of Darwin.

4.37. **February**

- A Council officer attended a reception hosted by Government House to welcome the Japanese research vessel, Umitaka Maru. The Umitaka Maru is a training and research vessel operated by Tokyo University of Marine Science & Technology that conducts annual research in Antarctic waters.

4.38. **March – July 2020**

- A global pandemic was declared by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2020. This has had a significant impact on the international relations program at the City of Hobart.

- Regular contact was maintained, particularly with the cities of Fuzhou and Yaizu during that time.

4.39. August

- The City of Hobart honoured its 42 year old sister city relationship with Yaizu in Japan by collaborating with the Australia Japan Society (Tasmania) and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (TSO) Chorus to mark the 75th anniversary of the first atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima.

49 students from 10 schools across Hobart reflected on the grievous anniversary and offered Haikus (poems of ancient Japanese origin) to contribute their imaginings for world peace. The event was staged at the Loop where a short film created by the City of Hobart was viewed. Students read their Haikus and the TSO chorus performed the Hiroshima Peace Song created by Yoshio Shigezono. More information is available via the [City of Hobart website](#).

Other Meetings, Events and Projects

International Relations Measurement System

- 4.40. Council officers met with Emeritus Professor Peter Frappell approximately four times since October 2019 to provide feedback on the measurement system being developed to inform Council decision making on international matters. A demonstration of this measurement tool will take place at this Economic Development and Communication Committee.

Antarctic Gateway Cities Project

- 4.41. Regular meetings and email exchanges have occurred over the last 15 months between officers involved in the University of Western Sydney and UTAS led Antarctic Gateway Cities Project. The City of Hobart has committed \$20,000 per annum cash and \$20,000 in kind per annum for the three years ending 2019–20.

This project that will draw to a close in October 2020 has presented the City of Hobart with an opportunity to connect with the gateway cities of Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Christchurch and Cape Town. Council supported an invitation to the Mayors of all gateway cities to visit Hobart in July / August 2020 to coincide with the SCAR / COMNAP conferences and events. During this time, it was intended that the Mayors would take part in a workshop to explore potential collaborations. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 these activities were cancelled.

Early discussions however are being had about the potential of discussing a 'charter of principles' setting out the nature of a renewed

relationship. The Antarctic Cities project group has drafted a charter for discussion.

Additionally, a key element of the project was the development of an [Antarctic Youth Coalition](#). A youth ambassador from each gateway city was selected via a competitive process to journey together to Antarctica. This group now on a voluntary basis is working towards a mission it developed during the expedition.

“To build a network of young custodians across five Antarctic gateway cities, advocating for Antarctic’s future, by promoting sustainable communities and connected urban identities.”



The Lord Mayor and Director of Community Life took part in a virtual meeting in July to hear more from the coalition including how the Council may support it. Four out of the five ambassadors attended the meeting from locations around the world, in addition to the Director of the Australia Antarctic Division, the Christchurch Antarctic Office and Antarctic Tasmania.

- 4.42. Officers attend the following meetings / events in relation to the City’s international relationships:
 - 4.42.1. Approximately four of the monthly Abruzzese Association Committee meetings per year to discuss the sister city relationship and provide information on activities taking place in Hobart’s other international relationships through the year.
 - 4.42.2. Hobart – Yaizu Sister City Committee. The City of Hobart coordinates this meeting quarterly. This meeting occurs more often in the build-up to the visit from students travelling from Yaizu in July.

5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. It is proposed that all major activities relating to the City of Hobart's international relationships (existing and potential) are paused until March 2021.
- 5.2. The maintenance of relationships that requires only officer time should take place although it is acknowledged that the focus of the Economic Development Unit in the short term is to support local businesses.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. Delivery against the IRAP is in line with Hobart: *A community vision for our island capital* and *Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-29*, particularly:

- 4.3.6 *We value pilgrimage – the choice to explore places beyond our island. Those who stay elsewhere take our culture to the world. Those who return bring new ideas and experiences with them, which we can use to enrich and evolve our own thinking.*
- 4.3.7 *We embrace those who have moved to Tasmania from elsewhere and work together for better economic outcomes*

Delivery against the current IRAP and continued improvement with respect to the way in which the City of Hobart measures the value of its international relationships is in line with the following goal within the *Capital City Strategic Plan (2015 - 2025)*:

Goal 1 - Economic Development, Vibrancy and Culture

“City growth vibrancy and culture comes when everyone participates in city life”:

- 1.1.2 *Support the University of Tasmania's continued growth within the city.*
- 1.1.5 *Implement the City of Hobart's Economic Development Strategy.*
- 1.1.6 *Develop relationships with other cultural and educational institutions as opportunities arise.*
- 1.2.2 *Partner with stakeholders to promote Hobart as a safe and culturally receptive city with a quality urban and natural environment.*
- 1.2.3 *Develop a policy position on international relations.*
- 1.2.4 *Support the Council's existing sister city relationships with Yaizu, L'Aquila and Xi'an and respond to new opportunities.*

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result

- 7.1.1. Proposals in this report have no financial implications for this year's operating result. The only resource expended in maintaining international relationships between now and March 2021 will be existing officer time.

7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result

- 7.2.1. Should there be an earlier than anticipated remedy to the current pandemic, a review in March 2021 will allow officers to incorporate international relations activities into the 2021–22 budget. This is assuming the Council is in a stronger financial position than it is currently and that existing resources are not being re-directed into other activities such as supporting small businesses or activating the city etc.

7.3. Asset Related Implications

- 7.3.1. None.

8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 8.1. The International Relations Action Plan is a non-binding document. The nature of friendship / sister city relationships are also non-binding. As such, there will be no negative legal implications from the recommendations in this report.

- 8.2. There is a risk that the pausing of major international relations activities could hinder current or potential relationships. Given the financial position of the Council and situations beyond the scope of local government such as international travel however, it is believed that other cities will be understanding of the recommendations in this report. Council officers are reaching out to cities with which Hobart has relationships or early dialogues, as well as local communities and stakeholders that underpin these relationships to ensure they still feel as connected as is possible.

9. Environmental Considerations

- 9.1. Given that very limited aviation travel is taking place at present, the Council's current international relationships are having no negative impact on the environment.
- 9.2. The city continues to investigate opportunities with existing and potential friendship / sister cities that will create positive environmental outcomes such as increased knowledge or investment. Examples of this are the potential relationship with Jiri in Nepal and Incheon in South Korea.

Jiri is focussed on developing into a green city and has introduced policies to ban plastics, control infrastructure development and improve accessibility.

Incheon is particularly interested in attracting investment in a number of industries including the hydrogen economy (low carbon). This is also something the Tasmanian Government are seeking to develop, with announcements made on 2 March 2020 that \$50M is to be invested into a 'Hydrogen Power Plan' for the state.

10. Social and Customer Considerations

- 10.1. It is of social importance that the City of Hobart fosters a diverse selection of international relationships based on geography, industry and nature of outcomes (community, culture, economic).
- 10.2. This report is not aiming to undermine the importance of the City's international relationships but given budgetary and travel constraints is advocating for a pause in significant activities until March 2021 when the impact of COVID-19 can once again be considered.
- 10.3. Given the often high costs associated with international relationships, particularly in travel. It is felt that any travel if restrictions allowed over the next six months would be insensitive. This report recommends that the focus of the Economic Development Unit (as has been the case since the pandemic was declared in March 2020) should be on supporting local businesses until the situation can be re-appraised in March 2021.

11. Marketing and Media

- 11.1. When smaller activities have taken place such as the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, the City has ensured it has maximised the opportunity to spread the word through the community. In this case, the event was covered by Win News and the City of Hobart has published information on the corporate website.
- 11.2. The Economic Development Unit has taken the opportunity to promote the activities undertaken to date and planned in support of local businesses. An article will be included in Capital City News which goes out to every rate payer in the LGA (circulation approximately 30,000).

12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- 12.1. A number of stakeholders affected by the proposals in this report have been consulted. These are:
 - Timor Leste Friendship Network.
 - Founder of Bottle for Botol.
 - Honorary Consul General of Nepal in New South Wales.
 - Indian Cultural Society of Tasmania.

13. Delegation

13.1. This matter is one for the Council.

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.



Lucy Knott
**SENIOR ADVISOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE

Date: 21 August 2020
File Reference: F20/40406



Luke Doyle
**MANAGER ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT &
STRATEGY**

Attachment A: International Relations Action Plan 2018 ↓
Attachment B: August 2020 Letter from Mayor of Jiri re: COVID-19 ↓

Overarching Goal:

Relevant and effective international relationships contribute to the growth of Hobart and its community.

Outcome	Actions	Measure / Reporting
1. Knowledge – <i>Hobart has used its friendship city relationships and potential international contacts to increase knowledge and learning for the benefit of its community.</i>	1.1. Maintain an active program of communication and visits with Hobart's existing sister cities of Yaizu and L'Aquila.	Council considers relationships to be active.
	1.1.1 Open discussions with L'Aquila and the Abruzzese Association with regards to the existing sister city arrangement between Hobart and L'Aquila and ongoing intentions.	Discussions commence and reported in annual update to Economic Development and Communications Committee (EDCC).
	1.2 Maintain an active program of communication and visits with Hobart's existing friendship city (Xi'an) and soon to be friendship city (Fuzhou) for the five year terms of the relationships.	Council considers relationships to be active.
	1.3. Commit to undertaking sister / friendship city visits at least every two years, or as appropriate where the city makes an equivalent commitment.	Sister / friendship city visits undertaken, economic and cultural value measured (actions 2.1 and 3.1) presented to EDCC in annual update.

**All reporting to be done to Economic Development and Communications Committee as part of an annual update report, or more frequently if required.*

***Different usage of the terms 'friendship' and 'sister' city reflect only historical trends and international preferences, not differing levels of commitment.*

Outcome	Actions	Measure / Reporting
	<p>1.4. Participate in international activities that will provide opportunities for the Council to gain knowledge for the benefit of the City.</p> <p>1.4.1. Consider participation in the biennial World Cities Summit and associated Mayors' Forum in Singapore.</p> <p>1.4.2. Investigate and resolve whether to lead the re-establishment of the Antarctic Gateways Cities Group of Hobart, Christchurch, Ushuaia, Punta Arenas and Cape Town for the purpose of sharing information.</p> <p>1.5. Develop agreed actions with government, education and business sectors on specific outcomes required from existing and potential relationships.</p> <p>1.5.1. Develop and implement an agreed plan with the State Government as to the City's role in supporting State Government policy outcomes in existing and future international trade.</p> <p>1.5.2. Develop and implement an agreed plan with UTAS as to the City's role in supporting UTAS's existing and future international growth.</p>	<p>Council decision to be made.</p> <p>Council decision to be made.</p> <p>Plans finalised and implementation commenced (1.5.1 and 1.5.2). Report to EDCC as part of annual update.</p>

**All reporting to be done to Economic Development and Communications Committee as part of an annual update report, or more frequently if required.*

***Different usage of the terms 'friendship' and 'sister' city reflect only historical trends and international preferences, not differing levels of commitment.*

Outcome	Actions	Measure / Reporting
2. Cultural – <i>Hobart has sought to enrich its community through cultural exchange and connection</i>	2.1. Measure the cultural value of international relationships annually and report to the Economic Development and Communications Committee.	Number of cultural events hosted / facilitated relating to the friendship city (e.g. Art exhibition, stand at the Taste of Tasmania etc). Number of school, college, university student / teacher exchanges between Hobart and friendship city. Level of activity of local sister city committees and their engagement with activities. Number of delegations sent to and received from the friendship city.
	2.2. Understand the culturally important aspects of Hobart's sister / friendship cities and seek to promote them in Hobart.	Report on 2.2.1-2.2.3 to EDCC annually.
	2.2.1. Encourage and facilitate the involvement of the sister / friendship city local community to stage activities in collaboration with existing events such as Festa Italia or the Australian Wooden Boat Festival that promote aspects of their city's culture and life to Hobart and Tasmania	
	2.2.2. Promote local community involvement in sister / friendship city activities through relevant associations and community groups.	
	2.2.3. Seek to investigate options for developing and sustaining international relationships via social media channels, expatriate networks and other	

**All reporting to be done to Economic Development and Communications Committee as part of an annual update report, or more frequently if required.*

***Different usage of the terms 'friendship' and 'sister' city reflect only historical trends and international preferences, not differing levels of commitment.*

Outcome	Actions	Measure / Reporting
	<p>appropriate methods, as a means of increasing knowledge and reinforcing relationships between visits</p> <p>2.3. Actively engage with UTAS to understand its Global engagement aspirations.</p> <p>2.3.1. Develop and implement an agreed plan with UTAS as to the City's role in supporting UTAS's existing and future international growth.</p>	Plan developed and implemented.
3. Economic – <i>Hobart has grown the number of economic outcomes achieved from its sister / friendship cities and international relationships</i>	3.1. Measure the economic value of international relationships annually and report to the Economic Development and Communications Committee.	<p>Number local businesses assisted by the City of Hobart to cater for Chinese visitors.</p> <p>Number of business referrals / introductions through the Xi'an and Fuzhou government to Hobart / Tasmanian businesses.</p> <p>Number of business referrals / introductions through the State Government and the City of Hobart to Xi'an and Fuzhou based businesses.</p> <p>Development of specific investor marketing material for overseas investors.</p> <p>Development of international student marketing materials in partnership with educational institutions such as UTAS and TasTAFE.</p> <p>Visitor numbers from sister /friendship cities (and associated spend).</p> <p>Student numbers from sister / friendship cities (and associated spend).</p>

**All reporting to be done to Economic Development and Communications Committee as part of an annual update report, or more frequently if required.*

***Different usage of the terms 'friendship' and 'sister' city reflect only historical trends and international preferences, not differing levels of commitment.*

Outcome	Actions	Measure / Reporting
	<p>3.2. Understand the State Government's policy position on international relations and trade and seek, so far as appropriate, to actively support this.</p> <p>3.2.1. Develop and implement an agreed plan with the State Government as to the City's role in supporting State Government policy outcomes in existing and future international trade.</p> <p>3.2.2. Participate in State Government trade missions where potential value to the City of Hobart is likely in the short, medium or long term.</p> <p>3.3. Hold an annual forum with Hobart's key business leaders to discuss opportunities for Hobart, overseas.</p> <p>3.4. Actively discuss and explore economic opportunities with the City of Xi'an, China based on the action plan attached to the Friendship City Agreement.</p> <p>3.5. Actively discuss and explore economic opportunities with the City of Fuzhou, China.</p> <p>3.6. Engage with Business Events Tasmania and relevant groups in the bidding for and hosting of international events and conferences.</p>	<p>Plan developed and implemented.</p> <p>Economic value (as per 3.1 measured and reported annually).</p> <p>Forum held and feedback from participants measured.</p> <p>Economic value reported (3.1).</p> <p>Economic value reported (3.1).</p> <p>Number of international event bids won.</p>

**All reporting to be done to Economic Development and Communications Committee as part of an annual update report, or more frequently if required.*

***Different usage of the terms 'friendship' and 'sister' city reflect only historical trends and international preferences, not differing levels of commitment.*

Outcome	Actions	Measure / Reporting
	<p>3.7. Actively engage with UTAS to understand its Global engagement aspirations.</p> <p>3.7.1. Develop and implement an agreed plan with UTAS as to the City's role in supporting UTAS's existing and future international growth.</p>	Plan finalised and implemented – number of economic outcomes achieved (3.1).
4. Civic – <i>the City has utilised its status as the Capital City to advance Hobart and Tasmania's international standing.</i>	<p>4.1. Continue to hold the annual Antarctic opening of the season reception and seek to broaden the international participation in it.</p> <p>4.2. Host Civic receptions that will advance the City and State's international brand, particularly through the State Government priority sectors of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Education; b) Tourism; c) Antarctic and Southern Oceans; d) Agriculture; and e) Aquaculture. 	<p>Reception held and participant numbers together with stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>Number of receptions held, participant and stakeholder feedback.</p>
5. New Opportunities – <i>the City has sought out and responded to opportunities to expand diverse international relationships.</i>	5.1. Develop on an annual basis for the Council's consideration a list of relevant cities that could be considered for future strategic relationships (these could be friendship city or a lesser commitment such as project based cooperative agreements).	Report to Council for all decisions relating to new opportunities (5.1-5.5) using Council policy 5.14.01 – <i>Guidelines for Future International Relations</i> for criteria.

**All reporting to be done to Economic Development and Communications Committee as part of an annual update report, or more frequently if required.*

***Different usage of the terms 'friendship' and 'sister' city reflect only historical trends and international preferences, not differing levels of commitment.*

Outcome	Actions	Measure / Reporting
	<p>5.2. Commence investigations into a community development based relationship with a city in the Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>5.3. Commence investigations into a relationship with one or more of the Antarctic Gateway cities of Cape Town, Punta Arenas and Ushuaia.</p> <p>5.4. Commence investigations into relationships with international cities with distinct similarities / very strong learning opportunities e.g. Portland, U.S.A.</p> <p>5.5. Before agreeing to new sister / friendship city or strategic relationship, undertake a minimum 12 month period of investigation and knowledge gathering into potential linkages with Hobart, based on the criteria set out on Council policy 5.14.01.</p>	

**All reporting to be done to Economic Development and Communications Committee as part of an annual update report, or more frequently if required.*

***Different usage of the terms 'friendship' and 'sister' city reflect only historical trends and international preferences, not differing levels of commitment.*



Jiri Municipality

Office of Municipal Executive



Ref. No. : 2077/078

Dispatch No.: 228

Bagmati Province, Nepal

Date: Aug 14th, 2020

To,
Ms. Lucy Knott,
Seniour Advisor,
Economic Development,
City of Hobart,
Tasmania State, Australia.

Subject: **Current situation of Jiri.**

Dear Madam,

The current situation in Nepal must be regarded through extremely serious lenses. With mass testing, more cases of COVID-19 begin to emerge. The Jiri municipality has prioritized awareness-raising activities and prevention activities such as people who came aboard need to be in quarantine for 14 days after that we test PCR and then send to home quarantine by these preventive measures, we are able to control the spread of COVID-19 cases. However, in Jiri there is no any COVID- 19 cases till date.

Your sincerely,
Tanka Bahadur Jirel
MAYOR
Jiri Municipality,
Jiri, Dolakha, Nepal

Clean Jiri, Green Jiri, Organic Jiri

Phone No: 049-414002/3

E-mail : jirimunicipalityjiri@gmail.com

web: www.jirimun.gov.np

6.3 Business Grants Update
File Ref: F20/90850; 19/95

Report of the Marketing and Business Engagement Officer, Manager
Economic Development Engagement & Strategy and Director
Community Life of 20 August 2020.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: BUSINESS GRANTS UPDATE

REPORT PROVIDED BY: Marketing and Business Engagement Officer
Manager Economic Development Engagement &
Strategy
Director Community Life

1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Elected Members on the business grants program in response to COVID-19 for the 2020–2021 financial year.
- 1.2. The proposed business grant stream has strong community benefit, as it assists the Hobart business community to ease the impacts of COVID-19.

2. Report Summary

- 2.1. A proposed Business Adaptation and Assistance Grant be implemented to assist small businesses to overcome and adapt to COVID-19.
- 2.2. The overall value of this grant stream is recommended at \$200,000 with funding allocated from the existing business grants stream and the events grants stream.
- 2.3. This grant has been created as a result of consultation with a specifically established Business Grant Advisory Group who have provided unanimous support for the suggested proposal.
 - 2.3.1. The panel was provided the results from the Business Survey that was undertaken by officers at the height of the pandemic to assist in their discussions.
- 2.4. The grant will be run as a quick response grant, in two rounds with equal funding in each round.
 - 2.4.1. Funding will be available between \$500-\$2000 per business
 - 2.4.2. The grant is available to small businesses in Hobart.

3. **Recommendation**

That:

1. *The Council endorse the proposed Business Adaptation and Assistance Grant for the 2020–21 financial year.*
2. *A total budget of \$200,000 be allocated to the program from existing funding in the events and business grants streams, specifically:*
 - (i) *\$48,000 from the existing business grants stream, and*
 - (ii) *\$152,000 from the events grants stream.*

4. **Background**

4.1. On 27 April 2020, the Council resolved inter alia that:

6. *The allocation for the Council grants program in the 2020/21 Budget Estimates be retained at the same amount as presently in the 2019/20 Budget Estimates, namely \$1.167M, subject to:*
 - (i) *In determining the guidelines for any business and community grants, the General Manager seek advice from an arts advisory group and a business advisory group;*
 - (ii) *The General Manager undertake a review of the allocation for the Taste of Tasmania and Dark Mofo and report back to the Council in May 2020.*
7. *The General Manager consider streamlining and simplifying the grants system to make it more accessible for applicants.*

4.2. To assist the business community with the impact of COVID-19, the City will be operating a new business grants stream in the 2020–21 financial year to the value of \$200,000.

4.3. Primarily, the funding for this new program will be reallocated from the Events grant stream at a value of \$152,000.

4.3.1. Due to COVID-19 restrictions making events more challenging there will be a reduction in the amount of events and subsequent requests for funding.

4.3.2. The remaining funding left in the events stream for 2020–21 is \$494,000.

- 4.4. The budget that was allocated to the previous business grants of \$48,000 will also be reallocated to the new proposed grants.
- 4.5. This ensures that \$967,000 will still be available for the remaining grants programs in the community, culture and urban sustainability areas.

Previous business grants

- 4.6. The City has offered business grants since August 2017, namely the Shopfront Improvement Grant, Civic Banner Quick Response Grant and the Local Trader Marketing Grant.
 - 4.6.1. The grants have had varying levels of success, with the Local Trader Marketing Grant being under-subscribed and was in review prior to the pandemic.
 - 4.6.2. The budget traditionally allocated to these grants of \$48,000, will be used as part of the funding for the purpose of the new Business Adaptation and Assistance Grants.

COVID-19 Business response

- 4.7. In initially addressing the response to COVID-19, Council resolved *inter alia* on 23 March 2020 that:
 - 6. *Council endorse the initiatives outlined in this report to support local businesses and creative industries utilising funding allocated to this year's Dark Mofo event (\$190k in cash assistance).*
- 4.8. As a result, the development of two quick response grants, the eCommerce Support Grant and the Professional Assistance Grant were established to assist the business sector to respond to the initial impacts of COVID-19.
- 4.9. The grants were a key tool for the City in being agile and adaptable in the face of COVID-19 to the business community.
 - 4.9.1. The eCommerce Support Grant was funding of \$300 to assist businesses with their online sales platform (ecommerce) in the height of the restrictions. A total funding pool of \$30,000 was available and supported 97 applicants.
 - 4.9.2. The Professional Assistance Grant provided funding of up to \$700 per business for the use of professional assistance to overcome or adapt to COVID-19. This could be used on services such as accounting, marketing or IT. A total of 133 businesses were awarded \$88,357.06 out of a potential pool of \$120,000.

- 4.9.3. These grants were well received by the business community. Officers focused on ensuring a simple and fast grant process, which will be reflected in the future business grants.
- 4.10. By way of background, the Economic Development, Engagement and Strategy Unit completed a COVID-19 Business Survey at the height of the pandemic to see how Hobart businesses were faring.
 - 4.10.1. Data was ascertained through the Australian Business Register, the unit contacted 656 businesses belonging to the most-affected industries. Between 27 April and 19 June 2020, the team completed in-depth conversations and surveys with 200 of those businesses.
 - 4.10.2. A part of the survey was to ascertain what financial assistance would be most valuable to businesses at both the time of the call and into the recovery stage.
 - 4.10.3. The most popular grant stream proposed was 'business adaptation', described as funding to help with changing a business model or direction in light of COVID-19 and/or assist with changes such as new equipment, marketing, packaging or deliveries. Of those surveyed, 46 per cent of businesses were interested in this initiative.
 - 4.10.4. The 'assistance grant' was also strongly supported in the survey with 45 per cent of businesses saying it would be relevant to them at the time of the call and 29 per cent listing it as helpful in the recovery stage. This funding was described as specific professional assistance for business such as accounting advice.
- 4.11. As per the Council decision, a Business Grants Advisory Group was assembled with panel members from a variety of businesses and industries.
- 4.12. At the group's meeting on 7 July 2020, panel members were provided with context on the previous COVID-19 business grants and the budget for the following financial year.
 - 4.12.1. The panel was provided with background on the phone survey that was undertaken in the height of the pandemic.
 - 4.12.2. In particular, the results from the survey of the preferred grants were presented to the group.
 - 4.12.3. The group unanimously supported the proposed grant programs for 2020–21, being a combination of the top two grant preferences from the survey results (Business Adaptation Grant and Business Assistance Grant).

- 4.12.4. The group discussed and agreed on the broad principles for the program.
- 4.12.5. The group provided feedback on their perceived gaps in previous funding which will be captured by the new program.
- 4.12.6. Feedback from the group was positive, including commentary that they were grateful to be involved in the process and to provide comment.

Business Adaptation and Assistance Grants

- 4.13. The proposed Business Adaptation and Assistance Grant will be launched with two rounds, the first round to begin in early-mid September 2020.
 - 4.13.1. It will be a quick response grant to enable funding to be awarded in a timely manner. Funding will be available until the round closes in late November, or until the funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.
 - 4.13.2. Each round will be allocated a total amount of \$100,000.
 - 4.13.3. A minimum amount of \$500, with a maximum amount of \$2000 will be available.
 - 4.13.4. The grant is available to small businesses in Hobart.
 - 4.13.5. Applicants will need to detail what they intend to use the grant on with supporting documentation such as quotes.
 - 4.13.6. Businesses will also need to provide proof that they have had a reduction in turnover as a result of COVID-19.
- 4.14. Officers also consulted with external stakeholders from State Growth to share learnings from their previous COVID-19 grant programs. In addition, officers were able to understand upcoming grant programs to ensure that the City of Hobart programs would be complementary to and not overlap any State Government programs.
- 4.15. A review of the grant program will be undertaken after round 1. It is anticipated round 2 will open in early February 2021.
 - 4.15.1. This is particularly necessary given the evolving nature of the pandemic and the subsequent needs of businesses.
- 4.16. Successful applicants will be required to acquit the grant within three months of the grant awarded. A report will be tabled to the Council at this time with an overview of the program.

5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. The grant round will open in mid-September 2020 with applications submitted via SmartyGrants.
- 5.2. Grant applicants can expect a response to their applications within approximately three working weeks.
- 5.3. A panel of three relevant skilled officers will assess applications internally, with the final decisions regarding successful applications to be made by the Director Community Life.
- 5.4. Applicants are encouraged to use the Recipient Created Tax Invoice to enable prompt payment of funds.
- 5.5. All awarded grants will be noted in the City of Hobart Annual Report in accordance with the City of Hobart policy in respect to grants and benefits disclosure.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. Funding applications within the City of Hobart Grants Program are assessed in reference to the strategy relevant to each stream. In this way the grant program ensures that the community projects being supported by the City help to deliver the Community Vision and relevant strategies.
- 6.2. The applications within this round respond to Pillar 4 of the Capital City Strategic Plan 2019–29, specifically:
 - 4.1 *Hobart's economy reflects its unique environment, culture and identity.*
 - 4.2 *People have a range of opportunities to participate in the economic life of the City of Hobart.*
 - 4.3 *Diverse connections help Hobart's economy, businesses and workers thrive.*
 - 4.4 *Hobart is a place where entrepreneurs and businesses can grow and flourish.*
 - 4.5 *Hobart's economy is strong, diverse and resilient*

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result
 - 7.1.1. The funds for the Business Adaptation and Assistance Grant will be reallocated from the Community Events (14480) function, specifically:
 - \$48,000 from the existing business grants stream

\$152,000 from the events grants stream

7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result

7.2.1. There are no impacts on future year's results.

7.3. Asset Related Implications

7.3.1. There are no Asset Related Implications stemming from this report.

8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

8.1. There are no legal, risk or legislative considerations as part of this report.

8.2. All applications were administered under the Applications for Grants - City of Hobart Grants Program Policy.

9. Environmental Considerations

9.1. The projects recommended through the City of Hobart Grants Program are required to, wherever possible, support the objectives of the City of Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2015–30. In particular, applicants must outline their commitment to sustainable events, certified compostable food packaging and reducing waste to landfill, if applicable.

10. Social and Customer Considerations

10.1. The projects recommended through the City of Hobart Grants Program should not be exclusive to a particular segment, but have broad appeal and can be attended by the general public.

10.2. The projects recommended through the City of Hobart Grants Program must not discriminate by way of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation in employment, marketing, advertising practices or within the event itself.

10.3. This specific grant will also require the consideration of social distancing and safe work practices in response to COVID-19.

11. Marketing and Media

11.1. Successful applicants will be required to acknowledge the City's grant assistance for the project. The acknowledgement will be appropriate for the project such as through a logo on a website or social media post tagging the City of Hobart.

12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

12.1. Manager Activation Programs and Tourism, Community Development Officer – Grants, Community Activation and Grants Coordinator and

Manager Economic Development Engagement and Strategy have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

- 12.2. Community members consulted in this report include, Manager Small Business, State Growth, Dr Louise Grimmer – Senior Lecturer Marketing, University of Tasmania, Alex Heroys – CEO, Destination Southern Tasmania, Robert Mallett – Executive Office, Tasmanian Small Business Council, Kif Weber – owner, Suzi Luck's Canteen and Cocktail Bar, Katinka Dineen – owner, Lily and Dot and Chloe Proud – owner, Oddfellows and Apocalypse Eating Association.

13. Delegation

- 13.1. This matter is delegated to the Council.

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.



Samantha Skillern
**MARKETING AND BUSINESS
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE



Luke Doyle
**MANAGER ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT &
STRATEGY**

Date: 20 August 2020
File Reference: F20/90850; 19/95

**6.4 Professional Development Reporting - Alderman Thomas - Digital
Artificial Intelligence Summit - Melbourne - 27 August 2019
File Ref: F20/88523**

Memorandum of the General Manager of 12 August 2020 and
attachment.

Delegation: Committee



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE**

**Professional Development Reporting - Alderman Thomas -
Digital Artificial Intelligence Summit - Melbourne - 27
August 2019**

Alderman Thomas has submitted the attached report in accordance with Clause H(2) of the Council's policy titled *Elected Member Development and Support* in relation to:

- Digital Artificial Intelligence Summit – Melbourne – 27 August 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

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.

N D Heath
GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 12 August 2020
File Reference: F20/88523

Attachment A: Alderman Thomas - Report - Digital Artificial Intelligence
Summit ↴

Report of a one day conference in Melbourne on Tuesday August 27 2019 attended by Alderman Damon Thomas

This report is in sections and encourages a discussion. This report is provided to support the professional development undertaken but also intentionally to create a forum within council in which the issue of AI as a tool to be of benefit can be openly workshopped by elected officials. Initially that is planned for a short workshop planned for that purpose to take place for a 30 minutes period prior to the forthcoming Economic Development and Communications Committee.

Section 1 is in a standard report format. Section 2 are observations from commentators of the future and Section 3 which will include a presentation by the Director Peter Carr in the pre committee workshop is intended to invoke a debate by elected members.

Section 1 what is Artificial Intelligence and the Event.

What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is generally defined as using computers to do things that traditionally require human **intelligence**. This means creating algorithms to classify, analyse, and draw predictions from data. It also involves acting on data, learning from new data, and improving over time

The Conference

The Director City Innovation and I attended the Digital AI Summit was held in Melbourne on Tuesday, August 27, 2019! www.digitalaisummit.com

As the conference record provides in partnership with the Digital AI Summit and the British Consulate General, the Committee for Melbourne presented two global experts on AI and Ethics: Dr Mariarosaria Taddeo, and Roger Taylor – Chair of the UK Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation.

The Digital AI Summit explored the theme of the current state of Artificial Intelligence and its potential business applications today and in the future.

Key areas of Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing and General AI, the Summit were intended to give attendees a better understanding of what tasks AI can perform today and how AI can be implemented into every organisation.

The summit showcased insights, technology and announcements of new initiatives intended to provide both knowledge and practical takeaways to start to build their AI awareness.

The summit also covered topics including Governance, Ethics and AI and Cyber Security.

Topics on the agenda included the following:

1. Artificial Intelligence in Business & Society
2. AI Enabled Digital Experience
3. National Digital AI Overview
4. Cognitive Computing
5. Being Human - Making Machine, AI and Digital Experiences, Human Experiences
6. From Big Data to AI
7. Delivery, Governance & Ethics - AI, The opportunity and the responsibility
8. Cyber Security, Machines Vs Machines
9. Global AI Perspective

I found it to be an exemplar event bringing together business and civic leaders, technology experts, start-ups, academics and citizens in facilitating debate of how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is directly affecting and impacting processes and models across industries, sectors, and geographic borders.

What is the **Committee for Melbourne**? The Committee which works closely with the City of Melbourne is a high level think tank which aims to advance the social and economic circumstances for the

city of Melbourne through research and facilitation. Its membership is primarily from the greater Melbourne business community including the University Higher Education sector and professional bodies with a primary mission to develop medium term strategies for social and economic advancement. Whilst an advocate for responsible change it represents the business community rather than lobbying for an individual business.

Contrary to popular belief AI is not about robots replacing humans in the workforce, but rather how it can enhance the things our often stretched staff already do.

Many companies are even now describing AI as “Augmented Intelligence” rather than “Artificial Intelligence” in order to delineate how it will be used in contemporary workplaces.

The theme of the Conference explored the cross-overs between humans and technology.

For example, humans are good at common sense, morals, compassion, imagination and abstraction but often lack time for these most critical functions in the workplace (see the later comments regarding our city administration)

AI systems on the other hand excel at natural language, pattern identification, locating knowledge and reducing bias. These are typically service areas where large organisations struggle to satisfy their customers.

Also consider that AI technologies have an endless capacity – think 24/7. That capability alone could help to transform the city government sector which largely remains a 5-day per week, 6am – 6pm business. We quite often shut down just as people get home.

AI is already being used in many customer facing ways in the banking (FAQs and Digital Sales), healthcare (Frontline Service Agents) and education sectors (Online Learning).

In a post-COVID world, digital services and physical distancing have taken on even greater currency and will drive even faster – but targeted - adoption.

The conference explored for example, how AI technologies such as virtual digital assistants could be applied to respond quickly to customer service requests at Council (over 300 types), pet registrations, parking fines, traffic management queries or requests or even to guide simple and complex planning applications through a digital concierge service. The sophistication of the virtual assistant that now exists makes the Jetstar 'ask Wendy' essentially stick figure very obsolete and first generation.

It was in fact difficult to 'pick' the virtual assistant from a real person particularly as the development of the human form involves detailed modelling of real humans!

AI has also quickly moved beyond the fixed and scripted earlier models of AI chat bots to a realistic, autonomous and interactive user experience. NZ Company Soul Machines provided a wonderful demonstration of its life-like digital assistant (see attached images).

This is the kind of assistant that could be applied through any website or mobile device and be fully branded and trained for a particular organisation.

Attendees were also actively encouraged to explore the ethics of AI with their customers and communities in order to ensure programs adequately addressed concepts such as fairness, transparency, privacy, security, reliability, safety and ultimately – accountability.

The recommended framework for this included identifying: 1. System Purpose 2. Technology Capability 3. Quality and Reliability (incl. responsible parties) and 4. Sensitive Users and Use Cases. Consideration of these factors are intended to avoid mis-steps and misuse of AI systems which make automated decisions or recommendations which may have a significant impact on individuals and society and will be considered in the development of the Connected Ethics project within the Connected Hobart Action Plan.

Companies that presented keynotes at the conference included:

- IBM WATSON HEALTH

- MICROSOFT
- DARKTRACE
- ORACLE
- RESILIENT FUTURES
- SOUL MACHINES
- DEEP RECOGNITION
- RISE.AI
- MISHMANNERS

Dr Taddeo Research Fellow, Deputy Director of the Digital Ethics Lab at Oxford University's Internet Institute, and Fellow at the Alan Turing Institute of Technology, gave the closing keynote address of the AI Summit where she discussed the 'ethical governance of AI'. As she declared "In a world where AI is going to aid and improve individuals and society, more AI means more humanness – AI should free us to do more things we want to do."

As with so many inventions and change generally the community seems to be more risk averse for any change unless there are robust governance systems in place, ample upfront evaluation and appropriate privacy protection. In fact it's probably not unrealistic to think that in an ageing community like Australia in common with most western countries issues of trust and privacy concerns and the need to accommodate fears will for many be the paramount consideration.

Section 2 the Future

Commentary located on the web highlights the extent of divided opinion on the value of AI and in the current time point to the value of integrated human – machine outcomes.

How has the pandemic affected the development of AI as a solution?

Despite the billions of dollars spent on AI technology over the past decade in a real sense its practical use in the new Covid world has been highly debated.

Some countries utilised their AI hunting for new compounds that could be used to develop a vaccine, or attempted to improve diagnosis.

In fact commentators say that the pandemic has reminded us of how quickly humans can adapt existing knowledge, skills and behaviours to entirely new situations – something that highly specialised AI systems just can't do. That's at least yet.

Enter the concept that is being touted that you bring together crowd or human intelligence and machine intelligence to create new systems of quote collective intelligence”

Techopedia reported that before the pandemic, technology and AI were predicted to grow the global GDP by up to 14% over around 10 years. One HR company The Adecco Group implemented an AI process for hiring and payroll for employees remotely where this activity had previously only been carried out in the office. Zoom the videoconferencing app has grown its users from 10 million to over 200 million during the pandemic. More and more businesses are reportedly investing in AI technology and one example being ultraviolet light disinfection robots to clean and sanitise workspaces. Fast food chains like McDonald's have been testing robots as cooks and servers to help maintain social distancing inside the kitchens and help chain reopen its doors.

All commentators declared that this technology may be the new normal. However at the end of the day one of the principal preconditions of the acceptance of AI is that the community has **trust** in the technology that there will not be data leakage, breaches of privacy and loss of data together with that ever present thought of replacing humans by robots will make a marketing effort even harder.

Section 3 the applicability of AI to the City of Hobart into the future

Note: as part of the preparation of this report I have had discussions with Director Carr who has offered to provide his perspectives of how this tool can be used for the city of Hobart and particularly now in the confronting period of the pandemic and beyond.

The following three questions were reported by Tom Amburgey In the journal PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION published On July 26, 2019 They are provided here to stimulate debate recognising that in the current it would be perfectly natural people to say perhaps let's leave this until things settle down rather than perhaps capitalise on the opportunities that may exist

1 The proposition that the use of AI in Local government saves time

Government employees spend vast majorities of their time doing routine, repetitive tasks, like data entry, answering queries and IT tickets or checking on the progress of citizen requests. Through AI automation, government agencies can significantly cut down the time and effort these tasks take from human staff. Government employees are then free to focus on more complex issues that have higher citizen impact.

The Applicability to the City of Hobart? Will for example the critical jobs shortage across the city mean people will either be prepared to accept increased costs of labour in return for maximising employment? Is the costs of the work force better used in keeping people in employment than on benefit?

2 The proposition that AI will reduce or remove repetitiveness and administrative burden

Providing quality support and aid to citizens is one of local government's primary responsibilities. By no longer having to do those repetitive, lengthy tasks, employees will have more time to explore new creative opportunities that better serve their citizens. This is a common problem faced by caseworkers for agencies like the Department of Children and Families who are so overwhelmed by the sheer number of cases they have, that many feel as if they cannot make significant progress in any of them. Through AI automation and augmentation, employees can go deeper into the data to provide better insight and service to citizens.

Could this work in Hobart's case? Is a local government like Hobart in the same situation as a state or federal agency like child support? Is there such an administrative burden that cannot be easily managed? Is there truly an opportunity for creativity and change productivity which in turn might reduce the cost of government and therefore the cost of government for the ratepayer in our case?

3 The proposition that AI cuts costs

Repairing aging assets can be a needlessly expensive problem many agencies face. Many times, overburdened government employees catch infrastructure repair needs after the fact. AI can be used to monitor and protect infrastructure – using computer vision and image recognition to identify and predict problems with structures or individual pieces of equipment and alerting employees of repair before issues become critical.

To what degree is this true for Hobart? Are we utilising current technology well enough in our protection and maintenance/replacement of current infrastructure? Has there been an investigation of the adequacy of our computerised or AI assisted technology capability for assets in the municipality? Should more be done and in what circumstances and at what cost?

Alderman Damon Thomas

7. COMMITTEE ACTION STATUS REPORT

7.1 Committee Actions - Status Report

A report indicating the status of current decisions is attached for the information of Elected Members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

Delegation: Committee

Attachment A: Status report for the month of August

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – STATUS REPORT
OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING
August 2020

Ref	Meeting	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
1	TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF SALAMANCA SQUARE, MATHERS PLACE, COLLINS COURT, WELLINGTON COURT AND ELIZABETH MALL Council, 9/5/2016, Item 15	That terms and conditions of use be created for Mathers Place, Collins Court, Wellington Court and Salamanca Square in the context of the review of the Highways By-Law and the development of a city activation framework, and that the terms and conditions of use for Elizabeth Mall be also reviewed, for presentation to the Council for endorsement.	Director Community Life	The terms and conditions for the identified spaces have been amended based on the updated Public Spaces By-Law and a report on this matter will be presented to the September meeting.
2	TIMOR-LESTE RELATIONSHIP UPDATE Council, 02/12/2019, Item 19 Council, 03/06/2019, Item 14 Council, 23/4/2018, Item 18 Council, 4/12/2017, Item 18 Council, 7/8/2017, Item 15	That the matter be deferred for further consideration by the Committee.	Director Community Life	<p>In light of COVID-19 and the Council's budgetary restraints, it is proposed that sister city activities will be deferred until 2021-22.</p> <p>An update on this matter is included in the International Relations Review report listed on this agenda.</p>

Ref	Meeting	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
3	MEASUREMENT SYSTEM, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS Council, 7/10/2019, Item 15 Council, 9/09/2019, Item 20 Committee, 21/02/2019, Item 6.1 Council, 4/6/2018, Item 15	That: 1. The Council notes that RMIT and ACELG (now ALGA) are not contributing academic work to analyse the qualitative and quantitative value of Australian local government international city to city relationships. 2. The Council authorises the engagement of Professor Peter Frappell to develop a robust system to measure the value of the City's current and future international relationships. 3. The cost of the measurement system be no more than \$21,000 excluding GST, to be attributed to the Economic Development Budget Function in the 2019–20 Annual Plan.	Director Community Life	Dr Peter Frappell, designer of the measurement system, will attend the August meeting to demonstrate its functions.
4	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – POTENTIAL NEW RELATIONSHIPS Council, 02/12/2019, Item 16 EXPLORATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS Council, 01/04/2019, Item 12	That: 1. The Council endorse the shortlisted cities of Incheon (South Korea), Kochi (India) and Jiri (Nepal) to be explored further for formal relationships. (i) A further report to be provided to the Council on the findings.	Director Community Life	In light of COVID-19 and the Council's budgetary restraints, it is proposed that sister city activities will be deferred until 2021-22. An update on this matter is included in the International Relations Review report listed on this agenda.

Ref	Meeting	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
5	COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY Council, 10/08/2020, Item 15	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Council endorse the following guiding principles for economic recovery which will inform future Council activities in this area: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Economic recovery is focused on need and adding value. Economic recovery supports resilience. Economic recovery builds economic confidence and participation. Economic recovery is evidence-based. Economic recovery is flexible and adaptable. The Council endorse the creation of a flexible COVID-19 economic recovery framework and action plan, including associated community engagement. The Council endorse the creation of a COVID-19 economic recovery business consultative group, as a temporary means of seeking feedback on recovery efforts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The General Manager is delegated responsibility for finalising the group's membership and terms of reference. The Lord Mayor, Chair of the Economic Development and Communications Committee and Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee seek to coordinate a meeting with relevant Australian and/or Tasmanian Government representatives to inform economic recovery planning. The Council write to the Premier seeking details of the Tasmanian Governments plan for responding to COVID-19, to ensure that the current measures being taken to prevent death and illness, do not cause greater economic, social and health consequences. 	Director Community Life	Officers have noted and are progressing.

8. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Regulation 29(3) *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

The General Manager reports:-

"In accordance with the procedures approved in respect to Questions Without Notice, the following responses to questions taken on notice are provided to the Committee for information.

The Committee is reminded that in accordance with Regulation 29(3) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Chairman is not to allow discussion or debate on either the question or the response."

8.1 Taste of Tasmania - Sydney to Hobart - Melbourne to Hobart - Yacht Races
File Ref: F20/90197; 13-1-10

Memorandum of the Director Community Life of 19 August 2020.

Delegation: Committee

That the information be received and noted.



City of **HOBART**

Memorandum: Lord Mayor
Deputy Lord Mayor
Elected Members

Response to Questions Without Notice

TASTE OF TASMANIA - SYDNEY TO HOBART - MELBOURNE TO HOBART - YACHT RACES

Meeting: Economic Development &
Communications Committee

Meeting date: 30 July 2020

Raised by: Alderman Sexton

Question:

Can the Director advise what is the likely impact on the proposed Taste of Tasmania event if the Sydney to Hobart and/or Melbourne to Hobart Yacht races are cancelled?

Response:

The impact if the yacht races are cancelled will depend on the business plan of the operator of the new end of year event. Perhaps more pertinent regardless of whether the races proceed or not is what the limit on numbers of people at indoor and outdoor gatherings will be at this time.

Question:

What is the latest date by which Council and prospective stallholders would need to know whether the Yacht race(s) are proceeding?

Response:

Again, this would depend on the business plan of the new event operator and the target audience and how they have factored in the Yacht Race participants and patrons and their visitation to the new event. Stallholders are growing produce and ordering supplies up to six months before a festival event and would require some modelling of estimated visitation to the event before committing to large outlays for goods.

Question:

When does Council have to pay its contribution towards the Taste of Tasmania event?

Response:

While the Council has agreed to a notional contribution to the event, it depends on the final request from the new event organiser and the milestones the organiser has agreed to meet in the lead up to the event. Council officers will stage the payments in the sponsorship agreement to match those milestones and make payment to the new operator once satisfied they have met the conditions of those milestones.

Question:

In the event that the Taste of Tasmania is cancelled or down sized, will any contribution made by Council be refunded?

Response:

By staging the payments in the sponsorship agreement these payments will be made on the milestone dates for the planning and work already delivered. If the event is cancelled the Council should honour any payment due but could have a cancellation policy in place to cease payment after that date if required.

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
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE

Date: 19 August 2020
File Reference: F20/90197; 13-1-10

9. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

An Elected Member may ask a question without notice of the Chairman, another Elected Member, the General Manager or the General Manager's representative, in line with the following procedures:

1. The Chairman will refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the Terms of Reference of the Council committee at which it is asked.
2. In putting a question without notice, an Elected Member must not:
 - (i) offer an argument or opinion; or
 - (ii) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.
3. The Chairman must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.
4. The Chairman, Elected Members, General Manager or General Manager's representative who is asked a question may decline to answer the question, if in the opinion of the respondent it is considered inappropriate due to its being unclear, insulting or improper.
5. The Chairman may require a question to be put in writing.
6. Where a question without notice is asked and answered at a meeting, both the question and the response will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
7. Where a response is not able to be provided at the meeting, the question will be taken on notice and
 - (i) the minutes of the meeting at which the question is asked will record the question and the fact that it has been taken on notice.
 - (ii) a written response will be provided to all Elected Members, at the appropriate time.
 - (iii) upon the answer to the question being circulated to Elected Members, both the question and the answer will be listed on the agenda for the next available ordinary meeting of the committee at which it was asked, where it will be listed for noting purposes only.

10. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee resolve by majority that the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to regulation 15(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* because the items included on the closed agenda contain the following matters:

- Confirmation of minutes and questions without notice in the closed portion.

The following items are listed for discussion:-

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Item No. 1 | Minutes of the last meeting of the Closed Portion of the Committee Meeting |
| Item No. 2 | Consideration of supplementary items to the agenda |
| Item No. 3 | Indications of pecuniary and conflicts of interest |
| Item No. 4 | Questions Without Notice |