

ITEM 22

LATE REPORT: APPROVAL FOR COUNCILLOR TRAVEL - COUNCILLOR CATH BLAKEY - CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIPS CLIMATE SUMMIT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2023

Councillor Cath Blakey has requested approval for travel to Melbourne to attend the Cities Power Partnership's Climate Summit for Local Government 2023 in accordance with the *Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy*.

RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the travel and accommodation costs for Councillor Blakey to attend the Cities Power Partnership's Climate Summit for Local Government at RMIT University in Melbourne in September 2023.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance and Customer Service
Authorised by: Ingrid McAlpin, Director Corporate Services (Acting)

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership is Australia's largest network of local councils leading the way to a thriving, zero emissions future. It is made up of over 175 councils from across the country, representing almost 65 percent of the Australian population. Wollongong City Council is a member council of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership.

Councillor Cath Blakey has requested to attend the Climate Summit for Local Government from 6 to 8 September 2023 in Melbourne to gain insight into Australian Council initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This aligns with Wollongong City Council's emissions reduction targets and climate emergency declaration, and the upcoming Climate Mitigation Plan.

PROPOSAL

Councillor Blakey has submitted a request to the General Manager for approval for the travel costs of attendance at the climate summit to be funded by Council.

Clause 6.28 of the *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy* (Expenses Policy) states the following must be considered in assessing a Councillor request for professional development.

6.28. Approval for professional development activities is subject to a prior written request to the General Manager outlining the:

- *details of the proposed professional development*
- *relevance to Council priorities and business*
- *relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.*

Clause 6.9. of the Expenses Policy states that Councillors seeking approval for any interstate travel must obtain the approval of a full Council meeting prior to travel.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are available within the relevant budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet costs associated with attendance at the Cities Power Partnership's Climate Summit for Local Government 2023.

The estimated total cost of attendance in person at the Climate Summit for Local Government for each attendee, if participating in all available sessions, functions and events is \$2650.

Travel is to be undertaken in accordance with the Councillors Travel and expenses Policy.

A breakdown of estimated costs is shown below, all costs shown are inclusive of GST:

Expense	Amount
Climate Summit Registration 6-8 September 2023 (CPP Member)	\$950
Accommodation (4 nights)	\$1000
Travel	\$700
TOTAL	\$2650

*Accommodation will be booked in accordance with the *Councillors Expenses and Facilities* policy.

CONCLUSION

Cr Blakey will be attending the Cities Power Partnership's Climate Summit for Local Government 2023 as a professional development opportunity as it presents an opportunity to expand knowledge and understanding of climate change mitigation approaches undertaken by other Council's which is aligned to Council's climate change mitigation commitments.