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## AGENDA

Special Council Meeting to be held  
at Darebin Civic Centre,  
350 High Street Preston  
on Monday, 22 May 2017  
at 7.00pm.

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# Agenda

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## **1. MEMBERSHIP**

Cr. Kim Le Cerf (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Gaetano Greco (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susanne Newton

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

## **2. APOLOGIES**

## **3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

## 4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 4.1 OVERSEAS TRAVEL

**Author:** Director Civic Governance and Compliance

**Reviewed By:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

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#### Report Background

This report seeks endorsement from Council for Cr Le Cerf, in her official capacity as Mayor to travel to the City of Guangyuan, China and present at the Chinese Academy of Social Science Forum – “Low Carbon Development and Eco-Tourism City International Forum 2017”.

#### Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

#### Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor Briefing.

#### Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal 6 - Open and Accountable Democracy

#### Summary

The Mayor, along with other Mayors from some major cities have been invited to present on their climate change experiences at the Low Carbon Development and Eco-Tourism City International Forum 2017 on 13 and 14 June 2017.

<b>Recommendation</b>
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#### That Council:

- (1) Endorses the Mayor, Cr Le Cerf to attend and present at the Low Carbon Development and Eco-Tourism City International Forum 2017 on 13 and 14 June 2017.
  - (2) Notes the costs of the return airfare and accommodation will be covered by ICLEI Oceania.
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#### Introduction

Clause 2.9.4 of the Councillor Support and Expenses Policy 2017 (**Policy**) requires attendance at any conferences in an official capacity outside of Australia to be endorsed by Council resolution.

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Due to the Policy requirements, the timing of the conference and the requirement for the Mayor to either accept or decline the invitation, Council needs to consider this request and make an urgent decision.

It should also be noted that the first step is to lodge an expression of interest in attending the Forum. ICLEI Oceania will then review all interests received and select a mix of suitable presenters that best meets the needs of the Guangyuan City.

### **Issues and Discussion**

The Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS) is the premier and most comprehensive academic research organization and national centre in the People's Republic of China for study in the fields of philosophy and social science. It is directly led by central party committee of Communist Party of China, and affiliated with the State Council.

CASS Forum is a high-level academic forum hosted by Chinese Society of Social Science. Held upon the rich human and professional resources from CASS, the forum is made up with high-quality presentations and interactive discussions, with a special focus on key issues in current China and global stage. The guests and speakers are usually distinguished scholars and high-level officials from China and overseas, experts from well-known international organizations and think tanks.

Guangyuan city is among the earliest batch of cities that promote and practice low carbon development. Under the strong leadership of local government, with guidance of the Institute of Urban and Environmental Studies, Chinese Society of Social Science, the city successfully turns the idea of ecological civilization and low carbon development into real-world application and has made remarkable achievements. It has been awarded with the State-level Clean City, China Top Tourist City, and National Forest City and has also been selected as National Low Carbon Pilot Cities, National Ecological Civilization Demonstration Zone, National Climate-Adaptive Pilot City, and National New Energy Demonstration City by National Development Reform Committee. Now "Low Carbon Guangyuan" has become a name card of the city. In order to better carry out the idea of green development proposed by the Central Committee of Communist Party of China, Guangyuan City Committee of Communist Party of China now raises the low carbon development and green growth to a new level, aiming to build city into a well-known eco-tourism city with healthy and wellness environment.

### **Options for Consideration**

Council doesn't provide endorsement for the Mayor to attend and speak at the conference.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no financial implications if the Mayor, Cr Le Cerf attends the forum.

### **Risk Management**

There are no risks associated with this report.

### **Policy Implications**

### **Economic Development**

There are no factors in this report which impact upon economic development.

**Environmental Sustainability**

There are no factors in this report which impact upon environmental sustainability.

**Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion**

There are no factors in this report which impact on human rights, equity and inclusion.

**Other**

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

**Future Actions**

No further actions required

**Related Documents**

- Councillor Support and Expenses Policy 2017

**Attachments**

Nil

**Disclosure of Interest**

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**5. CLOSE OF MEETING**