
REPORT 3
(1215/11/IM)

APPROVAL TO ATTEND THE AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 2011 – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (20-21 OCTOBER 2011)

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Council's approval for Councillor Paul Eagle (Portfolio Leader, Community Engagement) to attend the Australasian Conference for Public Participation 2011 at the Sydney Masonic Centre in Sydney, Australia, from 20-21 October and the pre-conference workshop sessions on Wednesday 19 October.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that Council:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approves the attendance of Councillor Paul Eagle at the Australasian Conference for Public Participation 2011 from 20-21 October, in Sydney Australia, and that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members' budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Notes that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting on Thursday 20 October, 2011, and an Elected Member Workshop on the Long Term Plan 2012-22 on Friday 21 October 2011.*
- 4. Notes that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

4. Discussion

4.1 Conference programme

The 2011 Australasian Conference for Public Participation is presented by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Australasia. IAP2 are the region's peak professional body for practitioners in the public participation and engagement industry.

Themed "*Excite, Engage, Involve – Active Participation in a Changing World*", the 2011 Conference will challenge current concepts, showcase leading experts and practice from across the world.

In broad terms, the conference will focus on the following areas:

Excite – why and how to motivate, mobilise and inspire the community to get solid results and sustained input.

Engage – how current practice influences communities and achieves better decisions

Evolve – how to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing landscape and remain relevant, including how to effectively use technologies for appropriate audiences and how to leave a legacy of strong, resilient communities following natural disasters and other challenges.

The two day conference programme will combine plenary sessions, interactive learning activities and expert panel discussions. There is a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday 19 October.

Session leaders include:

- **Mark McCrindle** – social research with an international reputation for tracking emerging trends, demographic change and customer shifts.
- **Playback Theatre Sydney** – nationally recognised ensemble of professional improvised performing artists.
- **Julie McCrossin** – freelance journalist and facilitator.
- **Geoff Wilson** – Senior Strategy Advisor (Citizen Engagement) for Capital Health, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- **Tim Williams** – Director of consultancy company Publicani, and former CEO of the Thames Gateway London Partnership.

Pre-Conference Workshops:

- Site visit to AIRDS Bradbury – showcasing the winning project of the International Australasian Core Values Awards for 2010
- Cred! – Engaging to have your advice respected (Anne Pattillo, NZ)
- Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast – Embedding engagement in organisational culture (Geoff Wilson, President IAP2 International, Canada)

Conference programme highlights include:

- Active participation in a changing world (Mark McCrindle)
- How do we motivate people to participate, how do we make participation not only fun but more importantly rewarding and worthwhile? (Playback Theatre)
- Involving people in decision-making in meaningful ways – are we getting it right? Let's ask them! (Julie McCrossin and Geoff Wilson)
- Community engagement and technology (Tim Williams and panel)

The full conference programme is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

4.2 Costs involved

The total cost of attendance for Councillor Eagle would be \$3,315.00, detailed as follows:

Item	Cost (GST incl.)
Conference Registration (non IAP member)	\$1190
Pre-conference workshop	\$395
Return Travel (economy)	\$800
Accommodation	\$800
Incidentals (as per Standard)	\$130
Total	\$3,315.00

The costs for international travel, accommodation and incidentals will be met from the elected members' training and development budget (GVEM01), and the costs for the conference registration and pre-conference workshop will be met from the elected members' conference budget (GVEM01).

4.3 Benefits to be gained

If approved, Councillor Eagle will be accompanying officers from the Citizen Engagement Directorate who will also be attending this conference. The conference has particular relevance for work being carried out on the Council's Engagement Framework and the proposed engagement around the Long Term Plan 2012-22.

5. Conclusion

Other meetings that are scheduled to be held during the period concerned are as follows:

20 October 2011 Strategy and Policy Committee meeting
21 October 2011 Elected member workshop on the Long Term Plan 2012-22

A decision is required as to whether Council should approve the attendance of Councillor Paul Eagle at the Australasian Conference for Public Participation 2011 to be held in Sydney, Australia on 20-21 October 2011.

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