
REPORT 5
(1215/52/IM)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LAW ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, WELLINGTON, 1 – 3 OCTOBER 2009

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on and to seek approval for up to two elected members to attend the 'Resource Management Law Association Conference' to be held at the Wellington Convention Centre in Wellington on 1-3 October 2009. The report arises from a Strategy and Policy Committee resolution.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of up to two Elected Members at the 'RMLA Conference' to be held in Wellington on 1-3 October 2009, and agree that the costs associated with attending the conference are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Note that a report on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand Incorporated (RMLA) was established in 1992 to provide a forum for professionals and others with an interest in resource management and the environment. The Association's objectives are:

- An understanding of resource management law and its implementation in a multi-disciplinary framework;
- Excellence in resource management policy and practice; and,
- Resource management processes which are legally sound, effective and efficient, and which produce high quality environmental outcomes.

The Association hosts regular seminars on items of topical interest and other events around the country. Its Annual Conference is regularly attended by representatives from Wellington City Council.

This year's Annual Conference is entitled '*Capital Leadership – in the national interest? Challenges for effective environmental management*'. The conference programme will explore how national and local interests can be appropriately weighed in resource management planning and decision making across matters such as major infrastructure projects, natural resource use and allocation, climate change and hazard management. Keynote sessions and workshops will be presented on leaderships nodes from the community, Maori, industry, the Courts, local government, and central government.

3.1 Future Conferences

Conferences scheduled for the 2009/10 financial year include:

- LIANZA Conference – 12-14 October 2009
- WasteMinz Annual Conference – 14-16 October 2009
- International Cities, Town Centres, and Communities Society Conference – 27-30 October 2009
- New Zealand Cycling Conference – 12-13 November 2009
- New Zealand Recreation Association Conference – 2-4 November 2009

3.2 Considerations

When deciding whether up to two elected members should attend this conference, consideration should be given to:

- the cost; and
- the impact of attendance on the budget; and
- the other conferences elected members may wish to attend later in the financial year.

The total cost for two elected members to attend this Conference is expected to be \$1,980.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

Item	Cost per person	
Return Flights	N/A	
Accommodation	N/A	
Registration	\$990.00	
Total per person	\$990.00	
Total for two elected members to attend		\$1,980.00

The impact on the budget of two Elected Members attending this Conference is outlined below:

	2009/2010 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees	\$39,500.00	\$3,576.50 ¹	\$35,923.50
Impact of sending two elected members to the conference	\$1,980.00	\$5,556.50	\$33,943.50

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether the Committee should approve the attendance of up to two Elected Members at the 'RMLA Conference' to be held in Wellington on 1-3 October 2009.

Contact Officer: *Keegan Bartlett, Committee Advisor*

¹ The 2009/10 budget contribution to the LGNZ Conference totalled \$1,576.50
The attendance of one Councillor at the Traffinz Conference at a cost of approx \$2,000.00

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports Outcome 7.2.B – More actively engaged: Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the Democratic system.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Relates to C534: Elections, Governance and Democratic Process.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Not required.

b) Consultation with Maori

Not required.

6) Legal Implications

Nil.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy.