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**REPORT 6**  
(1215/52/IM)

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**ACCELERATING NOW! LOCAL ACTION;  
SUSTAINABILITY; ICLEI OCEANIA, MELBOURNE, 1 - 4  
MAY 2007**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

To provide information on and to seek approval for one elected member to attend 'Accelerating Now! Local Action; Sustainability; ICLEI Oceania' to be held in Melbourne, 1 - 4 May 2007.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Recommend that Council approve the attendance of one elected member at 'Accelerating Now! Local Action; Sustainability; ICLEI Oceania' to be held in Melbourne 1 – 4 May and agree that the costs associated with attending the conference are met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Note that there is a Councillor Workshop and a Museums Trust Board meeting on 2 May, a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 3 May 2007.*
4. *Note that a report back on the meeting will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

**3. Discussion**

Wellington City Council is a member of Communities for Climate Protection – New Zealand. The conference will bring together local authorities and policy makers from across Oceania to discuss sustainability and development issues. The conference will also attract stakeholder involvement, including energy utilities, water businesses, catchment management authorities across New Zealand and Australia.

This conference will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about practical steps and programmes currently running in other cities. Sustainability skills and competencies which will be needed in the coming century will be discussed. Attendees will be given an opportunity to access strategic thinking on issues which are shaping local governments.

The conference aims to look at how local governments are working towards the goal of sustainable action and will create a road map for the next 10 years. Partnerships will be strengthened, which will help effect change through leadership and vision. The event will focus on strengthening capacity for effective and lasting action by local authorities.

Presentations will provide regional, national and international views on a wide range of topics including water and greenhouse issues. ICLEI expect presentations by agencies such as the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, Clinton Climate Initiative and the Global Reporting Initiative.

Prior to the conference, attendees will be able to access innovative, on-line learning tools. This will provide opportunities for networking and sharing information before arriving at the event. Topic areas and problem solving will act as a prelude to the conference.

The Accelerate Now! Local Action; sustainability; ICLEI Oceania conference will be a green event. The event organisers encourage attendees to utilise public transport while in Melbourne in an effort to reduce the creation of greenhouse gases. The negative effects of travel to the conference will be balanced by purchasing emissions offsets. The use of paper will be reduced through electronic approaches. In this way, the conference hopes to reduce the impacts of several hundred people in one place.

ICLEI are offering a \$100.00 early bird special for registrations before 28 February 2007. Members are also offered \$2000.00 towards flights, accommodation and incidental costs for those who register before 31 March 2007.

### ***3.1 Programme***

The event will be shaped through on-line discussions and information sharing prior to arriving in Melbourne for the conference. The programme is currently under development. However, themes for the conference are:

- implementing sustainable development
- public sector reporting
- institutionalising leadership.

An outline of topics is summarised below:

### ***Day One – Optional Day***

- Water sensitive urban design.
- Tools for embedding sustainability into Council operations.
- Green purchasing in Council contracts.
- Business networking.

### ***Day Two – Core Day***

- Exploring effective community capacity building approaches.
- Rethinking sustainability within your organisation.
- Influencing stakeholders through effective communication.
- Exploring renewable energy approaches.

### ***Day Three – Core Day***

- The reality of climate change and climate variability.
- Advancing local economic development.
- Water restrictions and management.
- Transport planning to meet community needs.

### ***Day Four – Optional Day – Field Events***

- CERES Environmental Park – a community environment project.
- Walkable Melbourne (half day) – tour of the highlights of the city.
- Visiting high performance buildings in Melbourne (half day).
- Water tour – water management in the greater Melbourne region.

Optional field events on day four carry an additional cost for the chosen activity of either \$50.00 for half day events or \$100.00 for the full day. The cost of the full day field events include transport to and from the Grand Hyatt, lunch and refreshments.

It is the intention of management to have officer representation at the forum.

### ***3.2 Considerations***

When deciding which elected member should attend this forum, 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 if one elected member is appointed is expected to be \$2,039.19 and will be met from the conference budget.

The cost of attendance per person is broken down as follows. This cost does not include the \$2000.00 special offer from ICLEI, or the \$100.00 early bird registration special:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Registration	\$695.26
Air fares	\$675.40
Accommodation	\$668.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,039.19</b>

The impact on the budget of one elected member attending this conference is outlined below:

	2006/2007 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees	<b>\$34,000.00</b>	\$15,949.75 <sup>1</sup>	\$18,050.25
Impact of sending <b>one</b> elected member to the conference	\$2,039.19	\$17,988.94	\$16,011.06

#### 4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether Council should approve the attendance of one elected member at 'Accelerating Now! Local Action; Sustainability; ICLEI Oceania' to be held in Melbourne, 1 - 4 May 2007.

Contact Officer: *Nicola Hay, Committee Advisor*

<sup>1</sup> The attendance of 5 Elected Members at the LGNZ Conference at a cost of \$5000.00.  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the TRAFINZ Conference at a cost of \$2310.00  
The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the Safer Communities Conference at a cost of \$400  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Digital Earth 06 Conference at a cost of \$1800  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Youth and Local Government Conference in New Plymouth at a cost of \$776  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the LIANZA Conference in Wellington at a cost of \$500  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the NZ Walking Conference 2006 in Christchurch at a cost of \$865  
The attendance of 2 Elected Members at Climate Change: The Policy Challenges Symposium in Wellington at a cost of \$350  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the New Zealand Recreation Association Conference in Auckland at a cost of \$748.75  
The attendance of the Mayor and 1 Elected Member at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Auckland at a cost of \$2,450.00  
The attendance of 2 Elected Members at the Improving Utilities Access to Road, Motorway and Rail Corridors – The New Context Forum in Wellington at a cost of \$300.  
The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 20 Forum in Wellington at a cost of \$450.00

## 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*