
**URBANISM DOWN UNDER CONFERENCE,
WELLINGTON, 18-20 AUGUST 2005**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on the Urbanism Down Under conference to be held in Wellington, 18-20 August 2005 and to seek approval for councillor attendance at the conference.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of councillors at the Urbanism Down Under conference to be held in Wellington, 18-20 August 2005, and that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEMO1).*
3. *Note that a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, a Regional Land Transport Committee meeting and a Makara/Ohariu Community Board meeting are scheduled for Thursday 18 August 2005, and a Wellington Regional Environmental Agency meeting is on Friday 19 August 2005.*
4. *Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The theme for this conference is “Urbanism Down Under – Creative Urban Futures” and is an international urban design conference with an Australasian focus. The conference will bring together experts from many disciplines to present and stimulate discussion on creative urban design solutions, best practice and case studies. The keynote speakers will include:

- Peter Bosselman – Professor of Urban Design, University of California at Berkeley, USA
- Francine Houben – Director, Mecanoo Architects and Professor at Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands
- Catherin Bull – Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Themes

- *People and the city* - Design for quality of life and liveability.
- *Place, space, art and architecture* - Innovative approaches to the design of public spaces and buildings.
- *Courageous development and responsive implementation* - Matching developers' objectives with those of the community and local government to provide 'win-win' scenarios.
- *The future of cities and towns* - The role of leadership, planning, design and partnerships in producing and managing towns and cities in the 21st century.

Presentations

There will also be 60 presentations from practitioners, developers and academics from a variety of countries - including New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the USA. The presentations will include case studies on new towns, inner city heritage revitalisation, and public space upgrades.

Other more strategic topics will include:

- city greening
- walkability of cities
- local identity and sense of place
- housing for indigenous communities
- city and regional strategies
- transit projects
- integrating green building options.

Conference Programme

The attached information is copied from the Conference Registration Pack and provides background information and details of speakers and topics.

3.1 Considerations

When deciding whether 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 cost of registration for the conference is \$562.50 per person and will be met from the elected members' conference budget. We will endeavour to see if a better rate, for a group booking, can be achieved.

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to which elected members should attend the 2005 Urbanism Down Under conference.

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