
**MM2/23 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE CITY OF RYDE
INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO TAIWAN - Mayor,
Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM****File Number: GRP/23/12 - BP23/89**

As noted in Council Report No. 13 - CITY OF RYDE INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO TAIWAN, listed on this Meeting Agenda:-

- The Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (on behalf of the Taiwanese Government) invited the Mayor of Ryde to be a VIP guest at the Taiwanese “Smart City Summit & Expo” from 27-31 March 2023.
- The invitation includes an offer for a City of Ryde delegation of up to five (5) more Council representatives to join the Mayor (six (6) in total).
- The summit organisers, through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, will be covering the cost of accommodation, summit tickets, domestic transport, transfers, and tours for the delegation.
- The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office will also reimburse the cost of the Mayor’s (or his delegate’s) flights but will not cover the cost of flights for other delegates, as well as meals that may not be included during summit activities (e.g., breakfast).

As further noted in Council Report No. 20 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY, listed on this Meeting Agenda:-

- Due to a combination of the City’s cultural and linguistic diversity, the presence of Macquarie University and TAFE NSW campuses, and the presence of Australian headquarters of global companies, the City of Ryde attracts considerable attention from international parties seeking to collaborate with Council and invest in the City and its people.
- The economic functions of the City of Ryde, in particular Macquarie Park, are global in their outlook. Our City is also home to economically diverse and growing centres, such as Eastwood, West Ryde, Meadowbank and Gladesville.
- The new International Relations Policy establishes five (5) guiding principles for international relations activities (including the Taiwanese delegation):-
 1. Investment attraction,
 2. Strategic outcomes,
 3. Transparency,
 4. Cooperation and collaboration, and
 5. Deliver benefits.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council notes participation in the Smart City Summit & Expo could help deliver economic and social benefits to the City of Ryde.
- (b) That Council notes the new International Relations Policy has a strong focus on good governance, transparency, evaluation, and reporting.
- (c) That Council notes to minimise the financial burden of its operations on the City of Ryde's ratepayers, Council resolves:-
 - 1. That Council Report No. 13 - CITY OF RYDE INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO TAIWAN and Council Report No. 20 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY (listed on this Meeting Agenda), be dealt with in conjunction with this Mayoral Minute.
 - 2. That instead of the recommendations in Council Report No. 13 - CITY OF RYDE INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO TAIWAN (listed on this Meeting Agenda), that Council:-
 - i. Accepts the invitation from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office to participate in the Smart City Summit & Expo (the Summit) in Taiwan from 27 March to 31 March 2023, which also incorporates the associated 2050 Net Zero City Leaders Summit, meetings with delegations from over 30 countries, major multinational companies, the Smart City Mayors' Summit, and over 10 City and Regional governments.
 - ii. Endorses the Mayor, Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM to attend the Summit, as Council's VIP representative.
 - iii. Nominates up to five (5) interested Councillors and/or City of Ryde staff (i.e. six (6) in total together with the Mayor) to attend this summit.
 - iv. Noting the financial contributions being made by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, including the Mayor's airfares, ensure no City of Ryde money shall be spent on the Mayor or Councillor delegates whatsoever, meaning food and incidentals not covered by tour providers (including airfares for Councillor delegates) will be at the personal expense of each delegate.

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- v. Notes the obligations of delegates set out in Council Report No. 13 - CITY OF RYDE INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO TAIWAN (listed on this Meeting Agenda), including those relating to evaluation, disclosure, and reporting back to Council.
- 3. That Council adopts the recommendations in Council Report No. 20 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY (listed on this Meeting Agenda), noting the importance the new policy is placing on good governance, transparency, risk management, evaluation and reporting.
- (d) That Council endorse the Council meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 28 March 2023 be moved to Tuesday, 4 April 2023 (due to the Mayor, Councillor and/or staff attendance at the Summit from 27 to 31 March 2023).

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor