

Meeting Date: Wednesday 22 March 2023
Location: Council Chambers, Level 1A, 1 Pope Street, Ryde and Online
Time: 5.00pm

Council Meetings will be recorded on audio tape for minute-taking purposes as authorised by the Local Government Act 1993. Council Meetings will also be webcast.

Statement of Ethical Obligations
Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under Section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993 and their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage Conflicts of Interest.

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MAYORAL MINUTE**MM4/23 CITY OF RYDE INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO TAIWAN
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY – Mayor, Councillor
Sarkis Yedelian OAM****File Number:** CLM/23/1/1/8 - BP23/128

At its meeting held on 28 February 2023, Council resolved to participate in an international delegation visit to Taiwan to attend the “Smart City Summit & Expo” from 27-31 March 2023 and to adopt an International Relations Policy.

Due to recent negative commentary on these matters, I made the decision last week to refer the matter to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in the interests of transparency. I have written to the ICAC under Section 10 of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1998* and have provided the ICAC with copies of the relevant Council resolution, the Mayoral Minute dealing with this matter and the Council report.

I have received a response from the ICAC advising that they have received all of the information provided by me and I have also provided the Chief Executive Officer with a copy of the correspondence from the ICAC.

Further to this, the Executive Officer - City Economy has discussed the International Relations Policy with the relevant officers from the Office of Local Governance (OLG). The OLG have advised the following:-

- International Relations / Sister Cities policies are considered by the OLG to be an internal matter for Councils to consider and there is no requirement for consultation with the OLG.
- It is not a function of the OLG to provide advice on Council policies unless there is a significant issue regarding implementing an OLG mandatory guideline or code.
- A written request to OLG would not be considered, as they would seek to avoid setting a precedent for all 128 NSW Councils to contact them on every policy matter.

Given the above, I propose the following recommendations:

RECOMENDATION:

- (a) That Council notes that in the interests of transparency, the City of Ryde international delegation visit to Taiwan has been referred to the ICAC by the Mayor and Council will await their further response with respect to this matter.

- (b) That Council notes the advice received from the Office of Local Government (OLG) regarding Council's International Relations Policy being that:-
- International Relations / Sister Cities policies are considered by the OLG to be an internal matter for Councils to consider and there is no requirement for consultation with the OLG.
 - It is not a function of the OLG to provide advice on Council policies unless there is a significant issue regarding implementing an OLG mandatory guideline or code.
 - A written request to OLG would not be considered, as they would seek to avoid setting a precedent for all 128 NSW Councils to contact them on every policy matter.

NOTICE OF MOTION**1 INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO THE SMART CITY SUMMIT AND EXPO AND
CITY OF RYDE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY - Councillor
Bernard Purcell and Councillor Penny Pedersen****File Number:** CLM/23/1/1/6 - BP23/131

MOTION:

That the City of Ryde undertake the following actions:-

- (a) Refer the City of Ryde's proposed international trip to the Smart City Summit & Expo from 27-31 March 2023, to the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for their full investigation and advice.
- (b) Refer the City of Ryde's International Relations Policy to the Office of Local Government (OLG) for their full investigation and advice.
- (c) Call upon the Mayor, Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM and Councillor Trenton Brown to stand down from their positions in the interim, pending these investigations.
- (d) That the Council co-operates fully with the ICAC and the OLG and offer all information and assistance possible to assist in their investigations.