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The purpose of this report is to seek approval for two Councillors to attend the International Conference on Urban Storm Drainage to be held in Sydney, Australia, between 30 August and 3 September 1999.

In his report to the Committee the Water Services Manager stated:

“This conference represents our best opportunity to showcase to the rest of the urban drainage world how we do things in Christchurch. Good attendance at the conference from Europe, North America and Japan is assured. There will be a lot of interest in the Australian and New Zealand approach to urban drainage management because our systems generally separate stormwater from sanitary sewage whereas northern hemisphere systems are generally combined drainage systems. Also the opportunity available in Australia and New Zealand for activities like waterways restoration will be quite an eye opener for many northern hemisphere attendees.

Eight technical papers prepared by Waterways and Wetland Team members and their key partners for the conference are tabled. The papers represent a sample “snapshot in time” of the current activities involved in the sustainable management of Christchurch’s waterways and wetlands. Collectively the papers manifest the broad span of activities involved in managing our waterways and wetlands, the innovative approach taken by the Waterways and Wetlands team and the importance of our partnerships with other stakeholders.”

In view of the significance of this conference the Committee considered that it would be most appropriate for the Council to be represented at the conference at both elected member and staff level.

The estimated travel and associated costs per delegate are as follows:

Hotel accommodation	\$600
Registration	\$800
Economy class air travel	\$600
Incidental expenses	\$300
Total	\$2,300

The value to the Council of elected members attending this conference is that it will increase Councillors’ knowledge of this important area for which the Committee now has responsibility and, as a consequence, enhance the decision-making process.

Recommendation: That two Councillors be authorised to attend the International Conference on Urban Storm Drainage.