

14. COUNCILLOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Officer responsible Leisure Manager	Author Kate Colebourne
Corporate Plan Output: Special Events/Activities	

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee to attend the FINA (International Swimming Federation) Bureau meeting and the FINA World Short Course Championships to be held in Athens, Greece, between 16-22 March, 2000.

Christchurch City Council Leisure is submitting a bid, on behalf of the New Zealand Swimming Federation, to host the 9th FINA World Masters Swimming Championships in 2002. The bid will be formally presented to the FINA Bureau in Athens, Greece, at their annual meeting during 20-22 March, 2000. The value to the Council of an elected member attending the FINA Bureau meeting is that the city will be most highly represented in seeking the rights to host this prestigious event. FINA will recognise that Christchurch is serious in its bid for the World Masters Swimming event.

The World Masters Swimming events have previously attracted over 4000 international competitors with 5000 competitors expected to attend the next event being hosted in Munich, Germany. The FINA World Swimming Masters Championships are held every two years. The size and impact of this event is comparable to the Golden Oldies Rugby tournament held in Christchurch in 1995. It is anticipated that the economic benefit to the city will be in excess of \$NZ6 million. The event will also contribute significantly to the growth and development of Masters Swimming in Christchurch and around New Zealand.

The FINA Bureau meeting is preceded by the FINA World Short Course Championships, in Athens. Attendance by the bid party as observers at this event would be of great benefit to Christchurch for hosting future international swimming and other sporting events.

In view of the significance of hosting the World Swimming Masters event to the city it would be most appropriate for the Council to be represented at the FINA Bureau Meeting and Short Course event at elected member level.

The estimated travel and associated costs per delegate are as follows (\$NZ):

Economy class air travel	\$2,579
Hotel accommodation	\$960
Incidental expenses	\$900
Daily Allowance	\$1,480
Total	\$5,919

Source of funds: Elected member travel and elected member allowances

Provision of \$25,000 has been made in the current year for elected member travel. At 31 December the balance remaining in this line item was \$18,400. There are adequate funds in the latter vote to cover the payment of the daily allowance.

Recommendation: That the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee be authorised to attend FINA Bureau meeting and the FINA World Short Course Championships in Athens, Greece from 16-22 March 2000.

Deputy Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.