

## 9. 2004 TRANS TASMAN SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE BID

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the outcome of the writer's visit to the Australian Sister Cities Conference in Western Australia in late September, to bid for a Trans Tasman Sister Cities Conference in Christchurch in 2004 and of a recommendation of the International Relations Subcommittee that Councillor Lesley Keast attend the Australian Sister Cities Association (ASCA) Conference in Bendigo in October 2002. This report was before the International Relations and Sister Cities Subcommittee at its meeting on 15 February.

### BACKGROUND

A Christchurch contingent attended the September 2000 ASCA annual conference in our Sister City of Adelaide. At that time, members of the ASCA executive expressed the view that a Trans Tasman conference would be a good next stage in the Sister City relationships between the two countries. The Council endorsed a staff recommendation to bid for a joint conference.

### THE PROPOSAL

On return from the conference Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ) discussed the proposal for a Trans Tasman Conference and agreed it was a way of further developing international relations between New Zealand and Australian Sister Cities. The conference would fall in line with the Sister Cities New Zealand annual conference and Christchurch would be the host city for 2004. Host city responsibilities for Christchurch would include the opening of the conference by the Mayor and the provision of a welcome function for delegates. Registration fees would cover the other costs associated with the conference.

### BID PRESENTATION

A presentation bid for the development of a Trans Tasman conference, to be held in Christchurch was made to members of the Executive of ASCA in Bunbury, Perth in October 2001. The ASCA Executive supported the proposal in principle and requested a formal presentation be made at the October 2002 ASCA conference in Bendigo.

It will be necessary for an elected representative and staff member of the Christchurch City Council to attend the Bendigo Conference in October to present a bid. Resources for a staff member to attend the conference have been budgeted in the 2002/03 operating budget. A member of SCNZ will also attend the October conference to support the bid. The inclusion of an elected member from the Christchurch City Council within the bidding delegation at the ASCA Bendigo Conference would support the conference bid.

The benefit of an elected member on the bidding team will endorse the Christchurch City Council's commitment to the Sister City movement and economic development through Sister Cities.

The International Relations Subcommittee recommends that Councillor Keast attend the Conference to present the bid.

### COSTS

While the conference registration fees have yet to be advised, it is expected the all-up costs of airfares, accommodation and conference registration will be \$2,500. Funds are available within the Elected Members Line Item for overseas travel.

### COUNCIL POLICY

Council policy relating to overseas travel by elected members requires that such travel will have a benefit to the Council. Benefits from this visit are through economic development in the bringing of a Trans-Tasman Sister Cities Conference to Christchurch. This travel is also relevant for getting an understanding of Australian policies, initiatives and proven methods used by Sister Cities in Australia for the management of Sister City relationships.

### Subcommittee's

**Recommendation:** That Councillor Lesley Keast be authorised to attend the ASCA Conference in Bendigo in October 2002.

### Chair's

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.