

From: Nicky Dangar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2017 8:21 PM
To: Legislation
Subject: addition to submission to the review of the Local Government Act

To whom this concerns,

I am not in receipt of an acknowledgement for my previous submission so I write again with an extra part which occurred recently.

I refer mainly to the Elected Members Entitlements Policy at the City of Joondalup which seems to be in the process of a review.

<http://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/files/councilmeetings/2017/Attach14brf170411.pdf>

TRAVEL EXPENSES BY ELECTED MEMBERS

Are these to be considered a right? In September 2017 the CEO and the MAYOR travelled with their partners to Jinan in China as part of a delegation in support of the International Economic Development Plan. The event was reported to Council. The Mayor had already advised of his intention to resign and not stand at the next election in October 2017.

We were given to understand that they attended a conference on a Discourse on Confucianism but it was mainly a festival of the Springs (water) we had photographs of the CEO drinking from the spring via a water fountain. The Mayor spoke for about 5 or 10 minutes. Many electors were of the opinion that this travel was a highly inappropriate use of the public money given that the new Twin City agreement (friendly cities) could have been signed electronically and the speech given by Skype type technology. The whole trip cost to the ratepayer was in the region of \$20,000.

It is not necessary for elected members to travel around the world at a time of hardship for many electors. Each earns sufficient to go on a trip and pay out of their own purse/wallet.

One recent member behaved as if he was the Foreign Minister of the Australian Government. A recent example was the Mayor travelled to Korea to accept a prize for Joondalup being the most liveable city. However he stated he had to go to United Nations to give a talk, instead it was an organisation in the UK which had organised it. Can supply references.

We were advised that if we were not happy about travelling expenses, that we could ask that travel expenses were reviewed, so may I take this opportunity to raise the issue.

The City of Joondalup enjoys a very sophisticated network hub called the LINK which operates from a café at Edith Cowan University so it was well within the capacity of the technology to conduct any nature of business in this way.

RECOMMENDATION:

Overseas trips to be approved at a higher level especially for members who are not continuing in their role.

Thanks
Nicky Dangar