

16.2 PILBARA-KIMBERLEY FORUM 2016

File No:	GR.24
Responsible Executive Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Reporting Author:	Director Corporate Services
Date of Report:	20 July 2015
Applicant/Proponent:	Pilbara Regional Council
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s):	Nil

PURPOSE

To consider the location for the 2016 Pilbara-Kimberley Forum.

BACKGROUND

The Pilbara-Kimberley Forum (previously referred to as the Joint Pilbara and Kimberley Zone Regional Council Meeting) has been running for a number of years, offering networking opportunities for delegates from Pilbara and Kimberley local governments, coupled with presentations from representatives of prestigious Australian and international organisations on a variety of topics relevant to the North West.

The 2016 Pilbara-Kimberley Forum is being organised by the Pilbara Regional Council (PRC). The PRC has endorsed holding the forum, approved a budget for the event and assembled comparative data for hosting the 2016 Forum in Shenzhen (China), Hanoi (Vietnam) or Alice Springs (Australia). Based on the information provided by the PRC a summary of the estimated cost to attend the forum by location per delegate is included in the Financial Implications section of this report.

The PRC has advised that holding the event in China is the best option financially (in terms of the total cost to the PRC) and will provide strong strategic alignment given the Chinese investment in the region, the PRCs membership of the ACBC Committee, the new Chinese Free Trade Agreement, and the focus on capital markets in the Developing Northern Australia White Paper.

The PRC is seeking feedback on this proposal from member local governments. The Shire of Ashburton has advised the PRC that its first preference is China followed by Vietnam.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Council Policy *CG-8 Significant Decision Making Policy*, this matter is considered to be of moderate significance in terms of economic issues and Council's ability to perform its role.

COUNCILLOR/OFFICER CONSULTATION

Council's representatives on the PRC have been consulted by the PRC regarding the 2016 Forum.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

No community consultation is required.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no statutory implications.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Attendance at the forum by Councillors would constitute professional development in accordance with Policy CE-3 *Professional Development Allowance (Councillors)*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A comparative summary of the estimated cost per delegate follows:

	Shenzhen PR China Standard	Shenzhen PR China Budget	Hanoi Vietnam	Alice Springs Australia
Airfares ex-Perth	\$1,074	*\$715	\$841	\$701
Accommodation 3 nights	\$540	*\$249	\$270	\$1,296
Meals 3 meals/day x 3 days	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$400
Forum Attendance Fee	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750
Single Entry Visa	\$132	\$132	\$87	N/A
Est. Total Cost Per Delegate	\$2,796	\$2,146	\$2,248	\$3,147

As indicated (*) in the table above savings may be made in relation to the forum being hosted in Shenzhen (China) if choosing a budget airline and hotel. The only additional costs will be domestic airfares and land transport.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This item is relevant to the Council's approved Strategic Community Plan 2012-2022 and Corporate Business Plan 2012-2016. In particular the Operational Plan 2015-2016 provided for this activity:

Our Program: 1.b.1.2 Build partnerships with stakeholders including Government Agencies and public and business enterprises to implement the vision of the Karratha City of the North.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no risk management considerations applicable.

IMPACT ON CAPACITY

There is no impact on capacity or resourcing to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

RELEVANT PRECEDENTS

There are no relevant precedents related to this matter.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority.

OPTIONS:Option 1

As per Officer's recommendation.

Option 2

That Council by SIMPLE Majority pursuant to Section 3.18 of the *Local Government Act 1995* RESOLVES to DEFER consideration of this matter pending further information.

CONCLUSION

China and Vietnam provide the lowest cost per delegate of the options proposed by the PRC for the 2016 Pilbara-Kimberley Forum. The PRC has suggested that holding the Forum in China will provide strong strategic alignment for the region.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council by SIMPLE Majority pursuant to Section 3.18 of the *Local Government Act 1995* RESOLVES to SUPPORT the 2016 Pilbara-Kimberley Forum being held in

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