

## **5.11. DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE - DARWIN, 20-22 JUNE 2016**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Governance

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council nominate the Mayor as the Douglas Shire Council delegate at the Developing Northern Australia Conference 2016 in Darwin from 20-22 June.**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Developing Northern Australia Conference is to be held in Darwin from 20-22 June 2016. The theme for the 2016 conference is "*Above the line – Unleashing the North's Potential*". The program will explore how industry, business, government and agribusiness are embracing the opportunities for sustainable growth into the next decade.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Developing Northern Australia Conference continues the discussion started in 2015 following the release of the Australian Government's White Paper on Developing Northern Australia. The conference is hosted by the Association for Sustainability in Business, an independent association of members drawn from a wide discipline of sustainability managers, planners and designers, providing a platform for industry leaders to share knowledge.

### **PROPOSAL**

That the Mayor attends the Developing Northern Australia Conference in Darwin from 20-22 June 2016, as the representative of the Douglas Shire Council.

### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Early bird (payment received by 6 May) registration fees are \$890.

Accommodation rates vary from \$200-\$350 per night depending on venue and availability. Airfares from Cairns to Darwin also vary in price according to availability and fare flexibility. However initial enquiries estimate return airfares in the vicinity of \$600-\$1000.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Economic:** While there are some costs associated with facilitating the Mayor's attendance at the conference, the economic benefits from sharing information with other interested parties and leaders in sustainability will outweigh any economic implications.

**Environmental:** The travel involved in getting to the event will have a negative impact on Council's carbon emissions output, but can be offset with a carbon reduction contribution at the time of ticket purchase. However, the benefits gained through being present for forums including *Land and Water* and the potential positive's for the Douglas Shire also balance the effect of the travel.

**Social:** The opportunity for the Mayor to network with and learn from representatives from other government areas and industry leaders in sustainability, will benefit the new Douglas Shire Council during this second term.

## **CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### **Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:**

#### **Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities**

*1.2.4 - Network, advocate and partner with stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes.*

#### **Theme 4 - Engage, Plan, Partner**

*4.2.3 - Work with regional, state, national and international stakeholders to promote beneficial partnerships to support strong, resilient and sustainable communities.*

## **COUNCIL'S ROLE**

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

<b>Advocate</b>	Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government)
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## **CONSULTATION**

**Internal:** Nil

**External:** Nil