

ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTE

4 September 2017

Minute Number: 35

Nepal Fellowship Project

Local Government Professionals Australia (LGPA) invited local councils from around Australia to participate in the Nepal Fellowship Project to support Nepal's decentralisation process. Georges River Council is one of only three councils from across Australia to have been selected to participate in the project between September and November 2017.

The aim of LGPA's Nepal Fellowship project is to build the capacity of local government professionals in Nepal by creating a bridge between the local government sectors of Australia and Nepal, allowing participants to share experiences and expertise.

Over a three year period, 15 Nepalese fellows will visit Australia for two weeks, and seven Australian local government professionals will visit Nepal for one week each year. As part of their visit to Australia, the Nepalese fellows will be hosted by Australian councils for one week to experience day-to-day operations and share learnings on-site.

Georges River Council will host the visiting Nepalese fellows from 18 to 22 September 2017, and a full itinerary has been planned.

Host Australian councils were invited to nominate up to two representatives to visit Nepal for a week, to provide specialist local government expertise and guidance to the Nepalese local government sector and to experience how the local government sector works in Nepal.

Council's Manager Community and Cultural Development and Executive Manager, Office of the General Manager have been nominated to represent Georges River Council in the Nepal Fellowship project.

Participation in the project will entail:

- attending a one-day conference on *Local Governance in the 21st Century* with the visiting delegation in Canberra on Friday 15 September 2017;
- hosting the visiting delegation of Nepalese fellows at Georges River Council from 18 to 22 September 2017;
- attending a one-week secondment to Nepal in November 2017.

The Nepalese community is recognised as one of the fastest growing communities in Australia, in terms of annual growth rate of Australian population born overseas. According to 2016 Census data, Georges River Council has a Nepalese population of 5,175 residents, equating to 3.5% of our population, compared to an average of 0.7% in Greater Sydney and 0.3% in Australia. This figure is up from 1,803 residents in 2011, signifying a 287% increase in recent Nepalese migrants in the last 5 years. Nepali is now the fifth highest community language spoken in the Georges River local government area after Mandarin/Cantonese, Greek and Arabic.

Budget

LGPA will cover all travel expenses, including airfares, accommodation and per diems, as well as all associated costs with hosting the visiting delegation in Australia.

MOTION:

1. That staff be congratulated on their success in being selected to participate in the project.
2. That Georges River Council participates in the Local Government Professionals Australia Nepal Fellowship project.
3. That Council's Manager Community and Cultural Development and Executive Manager, Office of the General Manager represent Georges River Council in the Nepal Fellowship project.

John Rayner PSM
Administrator