

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Council meeting submission form
Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 10:00 AM

Submitted on Tue, 29/07/2025 - 09:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Carina



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-07-29

Agenda item title

Proposal travel, Queensland, September 2025

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

I support all genuine attempts to address racism, and on those grounds I oppose any involvement of City of Melbourne Councillors in the 2025 Australian Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism due to the direct connections that the Summit's organising arm has to the Israeli state and its clear agenda in trying to repress legitimate criticism of Israel's genocide in Gaza. This Summit is part of a project to repress and demonise criticism of Israel's genocide in Gaza by falsely conflating criticism with anti-Semitism. It is a direct threat to everyone who stands against genocide.

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings?

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Council meeting submission form
Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 8:39 AM

Submitted on Tue, 29/07/2025 - 08:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Rebecca Rigby



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-07-29

Agenda item title

6.6 Proposal travel, Queensland, September 2025

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here

[Submission COM Meeting 9 29 July 5.30pm \(1\).docx](#) (285.08 KB)

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings?

No

Submission to City of Melbourne Council meeting 29th July 5.30pm

Question in relation to agenda item 6.6: Proposal of travel, Queensland, September 2025.

I am a Jewish resident of the City of Melbourne who is concerned by the conflation of antisemitism with criticism of Israel. Australia's race commissioner Giridharan Sivaraman has acknowledged that Jillian Segal's proposed antisemitism plan [raises human rights concerns, including restricting academic freedom](#), by [platforming the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which the UN has warned can be used to shield the state of Israel from critique](#).

The Australian Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism is funded by the US-based 'Combat Antisemitism Movement' (CAM). CAM is a vocal supporter of the IHRA definition, and many of the event's speakers and CAM's staff have direct links to the Israeli government and military such as Brig Vaknin Gill, former Israeli intelligence officer and chief military sensor who now sits on the advisory board.

[The forum's website states](#): "*Complimentary registration — including accommodation, flights, and meals — is available for selected guests, with costs covered by the hosting organisations.*"

My question has two parts.

1. City of Melbourne's Councillor gifts policy states "The receipt of a gift by a Councillor could create a conflict between a Councillor's public duty and their personal interests" and that "All gifts that are accepted that equal or exceed \$500 in value must be declared and recorded in the Councillor Gift Register". Can you confirm if any of the proposed City of Melbourne representatives have received the complimentary registration offered by CAM, and if this would be classified as a gift?
2. Do you think it's appropriate for our elected officials to be accepting complimentary hospitality from an organisation that has clear ties to another country's military and political objectives?

Thank you for your time.

Further reading:

[Antisemitism and Zionism: The Internal Operations of the IHRA Definition](#)

[Major Jewish groups leave Combat Antisemitism Movement after video blaming 'woke-ism' for antisemitism](#)

[The new definition of antisemitism is transforming America](#)

[What is Project Esther, the playbook against pro-Palestine movement in US?](#)

[Influence Watch: Combat Antisemitism Movement](#)

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Council meeting submission form
Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 8:11 AM

Submitted on Tue, 29/07/2025 - 07:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Chris Thrum



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-07-29

Agenda item title

7.1 Post travel report: Cr Philip Le Liu

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Dear City of Melbourne,

This is a written submission in regards to the City of Melbourne Council Meeting (Number 9 in 2025) of Tuesday 29 July 2025, and in particular the Agenda Item 7.1 Post Travel Report: Cr Philip Le Liu.

In April 2025 Councillor Philip Le Liu returned to Chengdu to attend the Chengdu International Friendship Cities Cooperation And Development Conference (Conference). City of Melbourne will gain immense benefit and value from Councillor Philip Le Liu's participation in the Conference.

At the Conference, Cr Le Liu delivered a fantastic presentation at the Mayors Roundtable that promoted Melbourne as a global destination for business, investment and tourism. Cr Philip Le Liu has represented the City of Melbourne (CoM) in Chengdu on a previous travel mission to Sichuan Province.

Key consideration 14, in the report written by CoM's Jack Hanna is important. CoM gains immense benefit from participation in Conferences such as these.

Cr Le Liu's participation in the conference can be considered a 'WinWin' for both Chengdu and Melbourne.

On 17 April, 2025 Councillor Philip Le Liu returned to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Bear Breeding. The inquiring visitor to Chengdu Visitor Base is sometimes told that the Giant Pandas are very intelligent creatures, who do remember and recognise human beings. An English translation would be "they're smart cookies!"

This visit to Chengdu paves the way for the planned CoM Delegation Visit to China in September, 2025.

Chengdu is recognised by UNESCO as a city of gastronomy, and Councillor Philip Le Liu was given the honour of an official Welcome Dinner, hosted by the Chengdu Municipal Government.

At the dinner, chances are Councillor Philip Le Liu recognised that Chengdu is not only a great gastronomic city like Melbourne, it is also the happiest city in China.

Chengdu has a tight relationship with the French town of Montpellier. On 22 June, 1981, the first Franci-Chinese twinning occurred between Montpellier and Chengdu. Montpellier appreciates the literature of Chengdu, and at Montpellier they have L'Ecole Chengdu-Montpellier, the Chengdu Montpellier International School. Chinese education is thriving in France.

<https://www.montpellier.fr/en/actions/competences/action-internationale/jumelages>

Like Montpellier, the CoM appreciates and loves its relationship with Chengdu. To Cr Philip Le Liu, we say - Xiè xiè.

Best regards
Chris Thrum

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings?

Yes

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Council meeting submission form
Date: Monday, 28 July 2025 8:44 AM

Submitted on Mon, 28/07/2025 - 08:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Matt Sykes



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-07-29

Agenda item title

7.2 Notice of Motion, Cr Griffiths: Swimmable Birrarung/Yarra

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

As the Co-Founder and Convenor of the international Swimmable Cities alliance (founded in July 2024 before the Paris Olympics and now comprising 153 diverse organisations, across 83 cities and towns, and 30 countries), colleagues and I are observing clear signs of a new wave in the urban swimming movement.

Cities around the world are consciously and proactively renegotiating their social contracts with their urban waterways as living entities, this includes Melbourne and its connection with the Birrarung. Mayor Anne Hidalgo and the City of Paris' leadership through the activation of swimming places along the River Seine is creating a positive FOMO effect.

At the world's first Swimmable Cities Summit in Rotterdam (June 22-24), we hosted approximately 200 passionate actors from 70+ cities and 20+ countries, across 3-days and set in motion practical steps to enhance inter-city and interdisciplinary cooperation to support this growing energy.

So, for Melbourne to position itself as a leader within this global movement is very timely.

Having been part of both the Melbourne 2050 Summit and Peoples' Panel, the resonance with the vision of a swimmable Yarra / Birrarung amongst participants was clear. The First Nations Roundtable proposed a swimmable Birrarung, Youth leaders proposed a swimmable Birrarung and broader participants proposed a swimmable Birrarung. Now, to see strong support from Mayor Reece, other Councillors and senior staff (inc. CEO Alison Leighton) is very encouraging. I was invited by the City of Paris to join Deputy Mayor Pierre Rabadan and colleagues for an opening swim at the Bercy swimming place, and can testify to the importance of this level of political engagement.

In Melbourne, the local movement towards a swimmable Yarra / Birrarung needs to mature. City of Yarra (a Signatory to the Swimmable Cities Charter) should be commended for its leadership, and it's showing how clear action in policy, community engagement and strategic planning is possible. However, we need new multi-stakeholder commitments and new structures for public-private-community cooperation. So, as the City of Melbourne seeks to strengthen its engagement in the local and international movement, I offer the following insights and invitations:

Firstly, please consider the Swimmable Cities Framework's 7 enabling conditions that serve both communities Right to Swim and Nature Rights:

1. The Right to Swim: Advocacy, Policy Reform & the role of Governance
2. The Art of Swimming Places: Designing, Making & Operating
3. Cleaning Up Our Act: Urban Waterway Restoration, Health & Biodiversity
4. An Urban Swimmer's Life: Community, Climate Adaptation & Urban Liveability
5. Public-Private Partnerships: Regenerative Business & Economic Opportunities
6. Water Literacy: Youth, Knowledge & Intergenerational Equity
7. Water Diplomacy: International Cooperation & Nature Finance

Secondly, to align itself with international best practice, the City of Melbourne should consider the following:

1. Sign the Swimmable Cities Charter as a (see full Charter - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gen6oSbjxEtkVYIE1_0ITfL_fkBIHEY1/view, and Expression of Interest form - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJpxFuhLtKkZFRG36vost-hA2C-nssPoqhBSgfZx132plsQg/viewform>)
2. Join the Swimmable Cities 'Next Wave Roundtable' (online) in Melbourne on September 17, being organised by Regeneration Projects and other 'Advocates for a swimmable Yarra / Birrarung' - <https://forms.gle/LPfUyygmSeYLoKdQ7> - as part of a international series designed to further local action.
3. Join the Swimmable Cities Community of Practice to learn from and with other cities around the world, as well as connect with leading experts working on the practical implementation of urban swimming strategies and development.

These will lay relationship and strategic foundations which could lead to other supporting conditions such as the Future Melbourne Committee committing new resources, and working closely with local and international actors to build upon existing progress in the efforts towards a swimmable Yarra, which are greater than may be initially apparent.

Lastly, the City of Portland (Oregon, USA) recently became the 8th municipality in the world to sign the Swimmable Cities Charter, and more are set to follow. Now is a time to act, to make small but meaningful steps and I'm also personally very confident about the potential for the Birrarung to become swimmable, well before 2050. Looking forward to working together on this, for Melbourne, for our community and for the Birrarung.

Warm regards,

Matt Sykes

Co-Founder & Convenor, Swimmable Cities
Founder, Regeneration Projects
Member, Advocates for a swimmable Yarra / Birrarung

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings?

No

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Council meeting submission form
Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 9:49 AM

Submitted on Tue, 29/07/2025 - 09:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Janet Bolitho



Your submission

Date of meeting

2025-07-29

Agenda item title

7.2 Notice of Motion: Swimmable Yarra/Birrarung

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA) is part of the network of advocates for a Swimmable Birrarung. YRKA, since its formation in 2005, has been at the forefront of advocates for the health, care and protection of the Yarra Birrarung.

Swimmable Birrarung offers an inspiring vision for 2050, and was well supported by attendees at the M2050 summit.

The City of Melbourne is well known for its leadership amongst cities around the world. Now other cities such as Paris, Rotterdam and Copenhagen, are demonstrating that the barriers that exist to urban river swimming CAN be overcome with will accompanied by investment.

Recent heat waves in Europe have shown how eagerly people seek the cooling relief and respite river swimming offers.

The activation of the river would bring a wonderful new public space opportunity for the city.

For the river to be swimmable as it flows through the City of Melbourne, it needs to be healthy to its source and course. We urge the City of Melbourne to collaborate with all its goodwill and resources towards a healthy River through its role in implementing the Yarra Strategic Plan: Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo

What's good for the River is good for all.

I urge councillors to support Cr Griffiths Notice of Motion

Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings?

No