**ATTACHMENT A**



**OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

**Outcomes Report**

The provision of the information below is consistent with the *Guidelines for Official Ministerial Overseas Travel*. This report must be sent to the Premier within 40 working days of return, and published on the relevant department website within 60 working days of the Minister’s return. The published version of the report does not need to include the ’next steps / follow up’ section or the signature block*.*

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| **Name of Department / Agency** | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning |
| **Departmental / Agency Contact**  | Ms Marlene Mifsud, Director Ministerial Services |
| **Telephone Number** | (03) 9637 8157 |
| **TRAVEL DETAILS** |
| **Minister’s Name** | The Hon Richard Wynne MP |
| **Portfolio/s** | Planning |
| **Did the Minister’s spouse accompany the Minister in an official capacity?** **If Yes – please outline the role of the spouse in achieving the outcomes of the visit** | **YES** (official capacity) [ ]  **YES** (private capacity) [ ]   | **NO** [x]  |
| **Accompanying Ministerial staff** | Mr Glen Brandum - Adviser and Caucus Liaison |
| **Countries visited** | People’s Republic of China |
| **Date of travel** | 8 – 13 April 2018 |
| **Number of official travel days (include day of departure and day of return)** | Six |
| **Funding source (list Department/s or Agency)** | Office of the Minister for Planning |
| **EXPENSES***Include combined expenses for Minister, accompanying staff and spouse (if accompanying in an official capacity)* |  |
| **Air fares (including taxes and fees)**  | $14764.50 |
| **Accommodation (including taxes and fees)**  | $2997.74 |
| **Other expenses (including surface travel and travel allowances)** | $187.67 |
| **Travel cost for Minister and ministerial staff *(and spouse or de facto partner if applicable)***  | $17949.91 |
| **Are the above costs final and complete**?\* | YES [ ]  NO [x]  |

\*correct at the time of publication

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| **Purpose of travel**Creating liveable cities that support jobs and growth in the face of climate change and population growth is a key challenge for Victoria. The quality of our built environment will continue to influence Victoria’s ability to attract investment needed to sustain our economy.From 8 -13 April 2018, I travelled to the People’s Republic of China to visit Nanjing, Kunshan and Chengdu to strengthen our Victorian Government ties with Jiangsu and Sichuan Provinces, and to exchange knowledge with growing cities on liveability and sustainability initiatives. I took part in the Jiangsu-Victoria Sponge City Innovation Park ground breaking ceremony in Kunshan, which is a landmark demonstration project for China. This built upon the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Victorian Government and the Jiangsu Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (DHURD) which was signed by Minister Neville in March 2017. I was the first Victorian Government Minister to visit Chengdu since the signing of the Victoria-Sichuan Sister-State Partnership Agreement by the Premier, Daniel Andrews in September 2016.**Benefits of travel to the State of Victoria**This visit continued to build on the significant relationships the State of Victoria has fostered with China and focused on Jiangsu Province with this year marking the 39th anniversary of our sister-state relationship and Sichuan Province to further our newly formed partnership.Benefits of the trip to Victoria include:* promoting the longstanding sister-state relationship with Jiangsu Province through urban planning knowledge exchange
* positioning Victoria’s strengths in liveability through China’s Sponge City Program by promoting involvement of a range of innovative water management and urban development business sectors in demonstration projects and knowledge exchange opportunities
* leveraging Victoria’s liveability leadership from Jiangsu Province into the fast-growing urban development conurbation of Chengdu to target future collaboration and promotion of liveability trade services
* positioning Victoria for future exchange initiatives focusing on urban renewal involving innovation parks, large scale precinct development and major city greening that are directly transferrable to priority precincts such as Fishermans Bend and Arden.

**Jiangsu Province Urban Planning Knowledge Exchange**Nanjing provided an opportunity to gain insights into the values and key learnings of Chinese urban planning and long-term strategic planning for cities such as Melbourne. The *Nanjing Urban Master Plan* and *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* have similar objectives that seek to manage population growth; optimise spatial arrangements for large urban areas; balance development and protection of cultural heritage and environment; and build a resource-conserving and people centric city. I positioned the strengths of Victoria’s urban planning and explored Chinese approaches through the following meetings and site visits in Nanjing:* meeting with Deputy Director General Mr Lu Xiaoning, General Architect, Nanjing Urban Planning Bureau to discuss long-term city strategic planning, including height controls around heritage sites, early infrastructure provision to development sites, and negotiated approaches to plot ratios for built form outcomes. The meeting deepened the exchange of planning insights shared during the Victoria-Jiangsu Secretaries Leadership program in July 2017.
* visit to Nanjing Smart Planning City Control Centre to view big data and analytics and understand how it assists public safety, optimises asset management, manages traffic, monitors environmental conditions - aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens of Nanjing. Of relevance for Victoria is to consider such big data applications provide opportunity not only in day to day management of city operations, but also e-government and provision of services, as well as in development of future environmental strategies such as the Air Quality Strategy for Melbourne.
* meeting with Ms Ding Qing, Deputy Director of Nanjing Jiangbei New Area to view a large-scale redevelopment precinct focusing on employment and industrial development. The precinct focuses on emerging IT industry, high-end equipment manufacturing industry and the bio-pharmaceutical industry. This has a significant influence on the high quality built form, clustering of education facilities and early provision of infrastructure and residential development that are drivers to attract anchor companies. This approach can be drawn upon to inform the employment precinct of Fishermans Bend as well as planning for the Arden precinct and the National Employment and Innovation Clusters identified in Plan Melbourne.
* visit to Golden Eagle International Centre New Building that showcases architectural design by Melbourne-based LAB Architecture Studio and represents collaborative relationships in city development.

**Kunshan Sponge City Program**The city of Kunshan is leading the implementation of China’s national Sponge City Program through innovative water management in a range of infrastructure, urban renewal and civic and major open space projects. A MoU between the Governments of Victoria and Jiangsu formalises the collaborative arrangement that support the Sponge City Program. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning through its Liveability Victoria International (LVI) initiative is working closely to support the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRC) in providing advice on water sensitive urban design and implementation of the program. Led by the CRC, the collaboration has provided the opportunity to learn from Jiangsu’s approach to implementation programs that address urbanisation challenges at a large scale, while Jiangsu has benefitted from Australian expertise in implementing water sensitive urban design.My involvement in the ground-breaking event for the Jiangsu-Victoria Innovation Park marked the recognition of the collaborative efforts to date, and signalled commitment to ongoing support and involvement in sponge city projects in China. The Innovation Park is intended to be an innovation hub to promote the businesses associated with water management, many of which are from Victoria. This includes landscape architects, environmental engineers and water treatment technology companies. During the event I also visited two regeneration projects with innovative water management outcomes; Ecological Forest Park and Kangju Park/Jiangnan Lixiang Estate.The event was attended by; Mr. Xu Minzhong, Vice Mayor of Kunshan City; Mr. Chen Haodong, Deputy Director General of Jiangsu DHURD; Mr. Shi Jiangang, Director of Kunshan Housing and Construction Bureau; Mr. Graeme Meehan, Australian Consul General, Shanghai; Ms. Karen Surmo, Trade Commissioner, Austrade Shanghai; and representatives of Jiangsu Foreign Affairs Office; representatives of the CRC, and three Victorian water management/urban design firms.The strengthening of relationships with Jiangsu and practical demonstration of project outcomes leveraging Victorian skills and experiences will assist to pave the way for a further joint trade mission being planned by LVI, Trade Victoria and the CRC in mid 2018.**Leveraging Victoria’s Liveability to Chengdu**Sichuan’s capital city, Chengdu is considered mainland China’s most liveable city and faces increasing challenges on how to sustainably develop and improve liveability for its rapidly growing population. The signing of the sister-state partnership agreement by the Premier in 2016, and Melbourne and Chengdu’s status as liveable cities provided an opportunity to grow ties through the following engagements:* meeting with the Mayor of Chengdu, Mr Luo Qiang and senior government officials from the City of Chengdu, Foreign Affairs Office, Chengdu Planning Bureau, Chengdu Construction Commission and Chengdu Forestry and Parks Bureau
* meeting with Chengdu Planning Bureau to exchange strategic planning insights including concepts around 15-minute cities, innovation parks, and integrated transport and green spine networks to create people centric cities
* co-hosting a Sichuan-Victoria Liveability Roundtable event
* witnessing the signing of the Sister-City Agreement between Dujiangyan and the City of Casey to enhance mutual understanding and benefit between their peoples and for strengthening friendly exchange and cooperation
* site visit to Green Path project providing an opportunity to view major ‘city greening’ program encompassing over 16,000 km of bike paths as part of a plan to increase sustainability, recreation and accessibility for Chengdu
* visit to Singapore-Sichuan Hi Tech Innovation Park - an innovation cluster for high tech enterprises set to become a model city that integrates industry with urban living, culture and nature – this is directly relevant to future planning for Fishermans Bend and Arden precincts.

These engagements built upon the Mayor’s visit to Melbourne in June 2017 and the hosting of a delegation of senior Sichuan Government officials for a liveability program in October last year.*Meeting with Mayor of Chengdu*The key points of discussion with the Mayor of Chengdu, Mr Luo Qiang included:* knowledge exchange to enable considerations about managing rapid population growth and understand the key elements of liveability for Melbourne including how to translate learnings into creation of Tianfu in Chengdu as a ‘Garden City’
* increasing exchanges in urban development to provide comfortable, safe and leisurely environments for people, including Chengdu’s Green Path project
* cooperation in economy, culture, education and tourism including boutique opportunities for inclusion of two artists to participate in a sculpture project on the Green Path
* both Melbourne and Chengdu face similar challenges of balancing population growth with enhancing liveability and preserving historical precincts, while allowing for development
* Chengdu’s new 15-year city plan is aiming for a 15-minute city – echoing many similar concepts to the 20-minute neighbourhood in Plan Melbourne.

*Meeting with Chengdu Planning Bureau*The meeting with Mr Zheng Zhi, Chief Engineer and Ms Lai Zhu, Director, Chengdu Planning Administration provided an opportunity to position Victoria’s leadership in liveability and approaches to managing population growth. Key areas of interest for future collaboration include:* planning for a human centric city – ensuring liveability achieves a balance between economic development and cities for people where culture and nature is respected
* strong urban planning frameworks for high quality development to accommodate density and achieve a 15-minute city
* green and low carbon forms of urban development
* optimising green spaces within cities – building the city into a major park rather than building parks in a city
* management of public realm utilising smart data
* integrated transport, infrastructure and land use planning – early investment programs for transport connectivity as initiative seeding underpinning new urban precincts, innovation and hi-tech parks.

*Sichuan-Victoria Liveability Roundtable*On behalf of the Victorian Government, I co-hosted the Sichuan-Victoria Liveability Roundtable with the Sichuan Foreign Affairs Office. The event brought together over 30 government officials, academics and professionals with urban planning and design expertise to discuss opportunities and share experiences in city planning and liveability. The outcomes of the roundtable were:* establishment of a communication platform to exchange ideas on state and city development, challenges and best practices to improve liveability
* introducing the capability of Victoria in liveability, to promote the export of professional services in design, architecture, urban planning and water management
* provide an update on the latest major urban development and large infrastructure project in Victoria.

This provided an opportunity to acknowledge future opportunities for collaboration and strengthening links around liveability between the Sichuan province and the Victorian State Government.**Next Steps/Follow Up**Following my successful visit, a number of actions have commenced and will continue to be progressed. These include:* LVI and Trade Victoria coordinating a trade mission to Sichuan and Jiangsu to leverage sponge city program opportunities for Victorian businesses across the urban design and architecture, water management, and environmental engineering sectors
* continuing to strengthen CRC leadership in design and delivery of projects in Kunshan involving a broader range of Victorian business opportunities leveraging the connections from the Innovation Park ground breaking ceremony and successful on ground projects
* planning to host reciprocal visits from senior government officials from Sichuan with a focus on urban planning, design and liveability and deepening connections with LVI
* Creative Victoria coordinating artist involvement in the Green Plan for Chengdu
* extending knowledge transfer into Victoria through the development of the Air Quality Strategy building on big data analytics of Nanjing, providing inputs to the Integrated Water Quality Ministerial Advisory Committee drawing on urban renewal experiences in Kunshan and Chengdu, and extending learnings from Chendgu Green Plan to the development of Melbourne’s Open Space Strategy and future precinct planning for innovation clusters in Fishermans Bend, Arden and other employment areas.
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