



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROPOSAL FOR "STUDY TRAVEL" BY NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER

The Remuneration Tribunal has determined that non-Executive members are entitled to financial assistance with travel for the purposes of undertaking studies or investigations of matters related to his or her duties and responsibilities as a Member ("study travel").

Chapter 15 of the Members' Guide sets out procedures for members to access this entitlement that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure has endorsed. The process involves:

1. the member completing a "study travel proposal" and lodging that proposal with the Secretariat's Corporate Services Office; and
2. the Corporate Services Office providing advice to the Speaker on the proposal and on the member's available entitlement.

Members should note that approval to utilise this entitlement cannot be sought retrospectively.

The following information must be provided:

Brief description of the proposed activity (must include the purpose of the journey/activity and/or details of any conferences to be attended or training to be undertaken):

I am travelling to South Africa in August/September for the 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Johannesburg as the delegate from the ACT Branch of the CPA. I am proposing to meet with the General Managers of Convention Centres in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town while in South Africa. The CPA will cover flights, to and from, South Africa as well as accommodation from 29 September till 5 August. I request that the Study Travel Allowance covers accommodation and incidentals on 28th of August (arrive a day early to tour the convention centre in Johannesburg) and also accommodation on the 5th, 6th and 7th of September to tour convention centres in Cape Town and Durban. Flights between Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban will also need to be covered by the study travel allowance.

Detailed itinerary (including dates and times) of the places to be visited/activity to be undertaken:

Tuesday 27 August	Leave Canberra - Evening	
Wednesday 28 August	Arrive early (5:45am)- Rest Day	
Thursday 29 August	Study- Convention Centre review in Johannesburg	<i>CPA to cover accommodation from 29th till 5th</i>
Friday 30 th August till Thursday 5 th September	Conference in Johannesburg	
Thursday 5 th September	Fly from Johannesburg to Durban after conference concludes at 5pm	
Friday 6 th September	Fly Durban to Cape Town	
Saturday 7 th September	Study - Cape town	
Sunday 8 th September	Leave South Africa	

Estimated Cost of Activity: \$2,500

(cost should include fares, travelling allowances, conference fees and other training expenses)

I acknowledge that:

- within **eight weeks** of completing this activity, I am required to submit a written report detailing: the travel undertaken and the costs incurred (including any reimbursement received for nominee accompanied travel); the names and area of responsibility of persons contacted; a summary of business undertaken; and, in relation to any approved training undertaken, a report on that training; and
- details of this proposal and the study travel report will be published on the Assembly's internet site.

Member's Name

B Smyth

Signature

B Smyth

15/11/13

*APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

Clive Duane

*Delete as applicable

Speaker

16/11/13

REPORTS ON MEMBER'S STUDY TRIPS

A study trip report must be submitted within eight weeks of completing any travel made under the Member's study entitlement. The report will be presented in the Assembly by the Speaker. The following format may be used by Members or may act as a guideline for Members in preparing reports.

STUDY TRIP REPORT

Name: Brendan Smyth MLA

Purpose of Visit: To visit a number of convention centers in South Africa to inform myself of how other facilities and countries are approaching the provision of convention and exhibition space.

Places visited and dates of visit:

- Thursday 29 August 2013, Johannesburg
- Thursday 5 September 2013; Durban
- Friday 6 September 2013; Durban and Cape Town
- Saturday 7 September 2013; Cape Town
- Sunday 8 September 2013; Cape Town and Johannesburg

Expenses incurred (including any reimbursement received for spouse accompanied travel):

\$619.20 for domestic flights in South Africa.

\$783.00 for accommodation in Durban, South Africa and Cape Town, South Africa.

Organisation(s) and individuals visited:

Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

Durban International Convention Centre, Durban

Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town

Area of responsibility of persons contacted:

Sandton Convention Centre

- Ms Matifadza Nyazema, Executive Director
- Mr David Doosi, Senior Operations/Food and Beverage Manager.

Durban International Convention Centre

- Ms Mala Dorasamy, Marketing and Sales Manager
- Mr Scott Langley, Marketing and Sales Manager
- Mr Jeremy Hurter, Finance Director
- Various other members of staff.

Cape Town International Convention Centre

- Ms Megan Arendse, General Manager – Commercial and Business Development.

Business undertaken:

I travelled to South Africa on the 27th of August as the delegate of the ACT Legislative Assembly Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) for the CPAs Annual Conference from 30 August to 5 September 2013.

The Conference was divided into several sections, and the ACT was represented in the Small Jurisdictions Conference, and the main Conference.

While in South Africa I took the opportunity to visit what are considered to be the three best conference centres in Africa:

- Sandton Conference Centre, Johannesburg
- Durban International Convention Centre, Durban
- Cape Town Convention Centre, Cape Town

My itinerary included the following:

- Thursday 29 August 2013: Met with management of the Sandton Conference Centre in Johannesburg
- Friday 30 August 2013: Start of CPA Annual Conference
- Thursday 5 September 2013: Conclusion of CPA Annual Conference and traveled to Durban
- Friday 6 September 2013: Met with management of the Durban international Conference Centre and traveled to Cape Town
- Saturday 7 September 2013: Met with management of the Cape Town International Conference Centre
- Sunday 8 September 2013: Traveled to Johannesburg for return flight to Canberra

Sandton Conference Centre

The Sandton Convention Centre (SCC) is located in the business centre of Johannesburg. It is next to Nelson Mandela Square and a major shopping facility. There are at least three Five Star Hotels immediately adjacent to the centre, all of which are connected by bridges. There are many other hotels within walking distance and short drive providing in the order of 5,000 beds.

The SCC has been built as a multilevel facility rather than the traditional single level approach. It consists of two levels of exhibition space, with three levels of meeting rooms, ballrooms and the Pavilion.

The two exhibition levels have a combined space of 11,000 sq meters. Direct road access is available to the lowest level only. All other floors are accessed by service lifts. Given the vertical configuration the SCC has 26 escalators and a number of lifts to ensure rapid movement of patrons between the various levels.

The SCC has been awarded the Silver Arrow Award for the last seven years from the Professional Management Review.

Other features include:

- Capacity for 10,000 visitors.
- Ability to hold multiple events at any time.
- 13 Breakout rooms can accommodate from 10 guests to 350 guests.
- The Pavilion which holds up to 4,500 guests can be used in a variety of settings from cocktail party to concerts.
- The Ballroom will seat up to 2,000 guests in its banquet configuration.
- Parking for 11,000 vehicles in 3 parking towers.

The centre is constrained by surrounding buildings and major roads which do not readily make space available for further expansion.

I was briefed on the financial impact of the SCC on the Johannesburg economy and the financial arrangements for the SCC. The meetings industry is seen as a big driver of the local economy both in financial terms as well as the profile raising benefits obtained from hosting high profile events.

Durban International Conference Centre

The Durban International Conference Centre (DICC) is the largest conference centre on the African continent. It has been voted Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre 11 times by the World Travel Awards, most recently in 2012. Across the road from the DICC is the DICC Exhibition Centre. The combination of both facilities provides a total of 33,000 sq metres of single level, flat floor exhibition space.

The DICC is primarily operated on a single level which can be opened up to a single room of 11,600 square meters. It has underground car parking for 1,000 vehicles. It also has office space and some breakout rooms on an upper level. The main thoroughfare is a kilometer long.

Their promotional material lists the features of the DICC as:

- Comprises six conventional halls that are interlinked, but separate, which can be opened up to form one large venue of 11,600 sq metres of flat floor column-free space.
- Raked auditorium – 1680 delegates – capable of sub-division, as 2 x 840 seats theatres.
- Plenary sessions for up to 10,000 delegates.
- Banqueting for up to 4,000 guests.
- Break out rooms includes 23 meeting rooms ranging in size from 43 sq meters to 396 sq metres.
- Three outdoor courtyard venues.
- Registration facility.
- A business complex including shops, medical service and banking facilities.
- The entire centre is Wi-Fi enabled.
- Interpretation facilities and state of the art audio visual services.

The southern end of the facility is configured as an arena. Named the ICC Arena it is considered to be Durban's premier indoor sporting venue. It can be used as a sporting venue or as a concert facility.

The DICC Exhibition Centre was formerly a railway facility. It has been renovated to now provide significant additional exhibition space including a number of different buildings which can be sub divided. There are also large outdoors areas for the display of heavy or bulky equipment. These areas can also accommodate marquees and pavilions as required.

The management of the DICC told me that their plans are to grow the facility. For significant events the dividing road is closed. They hope to acquire and shut the roadway and unify the two halves of the complex. This would also allow expansion into the future.

The DICC is seen as a major driver of the Durban economy, with independent studies concluding that the DICC makes:

...a significant positive contribution to the national, provincial and local economy.¹

Cape Town International Convention Centre

The Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) consists of a main exhibition space of 11,200 sq meters of column-free space which can be divided into a number of configurations. The main foyer runs the entire length of the exhibition space and provides access to the multitude of meeting and conference spaces.

Other facilities include

- A Grand Ballroom which can seat up to 1,300 patrons banquet style.
- Two auditoriums seating 1,500 and 620 patrons respectively.
- The Roof Terrace room can accommodate 400 guests.
- Various meeting rooms to seat from 30 to 330 delegates.
- 13 meeting suites.
- Translation facilities.
- Registration foyer.
- In house restaurant.
- Wi-Fi enabled and with complete audio visual facilities.

The CTICC is looking to almost double the size of the existing facility. This would involve building over an adjacent road to include a currently empty parcel of land. Expansion is seen as critical to be able to better compete with the much larger DICC.

The CTICC is also an important of the national and provincial economy:

...the CTICC continued to make a valuable contribution to both the national and regional economy.....as a result of the centre's activities, more than 7,000 employment opportunities were created in the Western Cape and across South Africa.²

The CTICC is jointly owned by the City of Cape Town, the Provincial Government of the Western Cape and SunWest International Ltd.

Other Convention Centre in Activity in South Africa

Of interest is that consideration is underway for a new ultra large facility to be built in Pretoria. The current facility is very small in comparison to the three that I visited and it was suggested that a conference centre of some 80,000 square meters is under consideration.

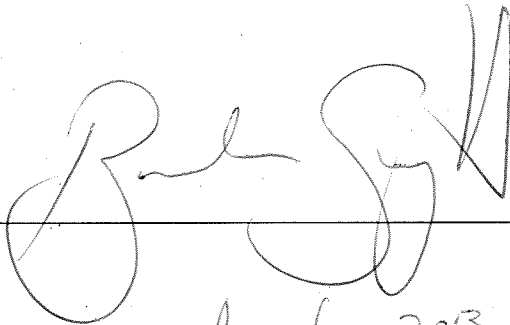
¹ 2012 Annual Report, Durban International Convention Centre, pg 11.

² 2012 Annual Report, Cape Town International Convention Centre, pg 12.

Recommendations

- The Government immediately establishes a Trust to deliver and new convention centre and entertainment precinct.
- Confirm site for a new convention centre in Canberra.
- Ensure site has room for future expansion.
- Ensure site has protected view of the Parliamentary Triangle.
- Ensure innovative technology and security to enhance venue and event experience.
- Identify sites for additional hotel rooms.
- Investment ready by 30 June 2014.
- Target to open new convention centre by January 2018.
- Factor in increase in size by 2030
- Ensure additional budget for Canberra Convention Bureau and Visit Canberra to start promotional work in 2014.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Skellern', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 12/13/2013

13 June 2013