

Council Visit to NZ Sister City

The Lord Mayor and several Adelaide City Councillors are this week visiting Adelaide's Sister City of Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Sister City relationship between Christchurch and Adelaide fosters close understanding between the two cities, leading to the exchange ideas and information between organisations.

Adelaide Lord Mayor Mr Michael Harbison said the visit provides opportunities to learn about initiatives being undertaken in Christchurch that could be applied in Adelaide.

“Joining us on the visit to Christchurch is the Chief Executive of Education Adelaide, Ms Denise von Wald. We are interested in drilling down into the Christchurch international student program, with the view to further develop our own initiatives in Adelaide.”

“Increasing student numbers in the City is one of the key activities for the Council and an important part of meeting our population targets within our Strategic Management Plan.”

Ms von Wald said the City Council has been particularly active in supporting the Adelaide – Learning City initiatives and South Australia is now the fastest growing international student destination in the nation. But we want to explore fresh ways of maintaining that momentum.

“Christchurch has been successful in attracting international students in the English Language school sectors. We're planning to take a close look at how they're achieving that, with a view to introducing additional programs which can further boost student numbers here.

“It's a valuable opportunity for us to learn from the work going on in our Sister City in New Zealand.”

The delegation will also look at environmental initiatives during the visit.

Mr Harbison said that Adelaide City Council has recently ordered a pure electric solar bus from a Christchurch manufacturer.

“The visit will give us the opportunity to look at how they utilise their electric bus service, given Council have recently ordered a battery electric (BEV) bus from Christchurch to replace our free Connector Bus.

“We are also travelling with Dr Richard Stewart from Flinders Bioremediation Pty Ltd. We will look at Christchurch's methods of dealing with gross pollutant litter, such as that caught in our traps in the Torrens Lake after storm activity.

“We will also examine their work on organic waste management, which may help us develop new systems for areas with large amounts of organic waste, such as the Central Market and the East End restaurant area.”

The delegation includes the Lord Mayor, Councillors Bob Angove, Judith Brine and Peter Darley, as well as Denise von Wald from Education Adelaide and Richard Stewart from Flinders Bioremediation Ltd.

Flinders Bioremediation Pty Ltd is a South Australian firm owned by Flinders University. It is widely recognised as a technical specialist in waste management and remediation and recently

won a national award for environmental excellence for a project which involved treating contaminated silt from Brown Hill Creek.

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