



LGMA National study tour - Beijing and Wyndham councils share common ground

News Release

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LGMA National recently hosted a successful delegation from the Beijing Municipality as part of a study tour of Australia on annual budgeting and asset management in local government.

Led by the Deputy Director of Beijing Municipal Bureau of Finance, the delegation visited Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, and were hosted by Wyndham City Council on 22 November 2013.

Facing challenges in a changing economic and political environment, Mr Chen Xiaoping said Chinese local governments can learn from the good practice of Australia and expressed his appreciation of Wyndham's hospitality.

"We are looking for more opportunities to exchange knowledge and share experiences with Wyndham City Council in the future," Mr Chen said.

Wyndham City Council Director of Corporate Services, Steven Lambert presented to the delegation and shared good practice in engagement with communities and transparency in budgeting process.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Victorian Department of Transport Planning and Local Infrastructure. Acting Director Sector Development, Local Government Victoria, Mark Grant and Manager of Intergovernmental Relations, Local Government Victoria, Kathy Pryor presented on the state government's work in supporting local government asset management.

Mark Grant told the delegation that "the value of local infrastructure in Victoria is \$67 billion, which means local government in Australia is under a lot of responsibility in managing its assets."

The delegation discussed the fact that the Beijing Municipal Government is facing the same challenge with asset management and spoke highly of the Victorian Government Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

"These are some very valuable practices for government in asset management. We will adapt the great ideas into our work in Beijing," said Mr Li Qiang, Deputy Director of Financial Bureau of Shunyi District Beijing.

Delegations from Chinese provincial, local and central government departments have previously participated in LGMA study tours to explore topics such as local government planning and

budgeting, asset management, community services, workforce development and talent management.

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