

Briefing: Secretary
FOR INFORMATION

Post travel report: Ms Rebecca McPhee to Wellington, New Zealand



Transport
for NSW

Purpose: To report to the Secretary on Ms Rebecca McPhee's recent overseas travel to Wellington, New Zealand between 20 to 24 November 2022, to complete a mandatory component of the Executive Master of Public Administration course.

Analysis: TfNSW have formally sponsored and supported Ms McPhee's participation in the Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) program since 2021. The program is designed to uplift capability to deliver benefits to sponsoring agencies and NSW Government more broadly. The program is delivered by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) which is owned by, and works, for the governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Approval was provided for Ms McPhee to attend mandatory capstone subject delivery in Wellington, New Zealand. This included presentation of research findings by Ms McPhee as part of a cross-jurisdictional team that has been researching the ethical implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by government and attending panel sessions with leaders from the New Zealand public service.

Summary:

1. ANZSOG Executive Master of Public Administration delivery – successful completion of course requirements and presentation of research findings.
2. Lessons gained about public sector capability reforms, cross-sectoral collaboration and First Nations engagement.

Key learnings and outcomes

ANZSOG delivered content included panel sessions with multiple Chief Executives from the New Zealand public service and presentation of work-based project research findings, targeted at practical and live public sector challenges. Key learnings included:

- New Zealand public sector reforms delivered through the Public Service Act 2020 – provided foundation for greater Māori involvement in government decision-making, long term thinking and decision-making that considers multi-generational impacts and actions to uplift public sector capability.
- Cross sectoral collaboration – enabled through public sector reform and establishment of Boards that bring together public sector leaders across government and accountable to a single Minister. Transferred lessons from private sector governance arrangements.

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Contact: Rebecca McPhee, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Customer, Operations and Outcomes, Sydney Metro.

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- First Nations engagement and lessons in strengthening relationships between Māori and the New Zealand government.
- Findings and recommendations for the public sector arising from research about the ethical implementation of AI by government agencies. Conducted on behalf of DPC Victoria, but with applicability across Australian jurisdictions, this research analysed how agencies are currently using tools to guide the ethical use of AI and identified critical factors that support the effective consideration of ethical issues in AI projects.

Communication Strategy

Learnings from Ms McPhee’s participation in the EMPA program will be shared with Executive and broader leadership team members through formal presentation and discussion sessions over the next 6 months, outlining the application of key lessons, themes and debates from theory and practice to both business-as-usual activities and longer term thinking about public service.

In addition, Ms McPhee and her Work Based Project group have shared the findings of their research project ‘*Ethical Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI)*’ with industry practitioners and organisations across NSW and Australia, including DPC Victoria, Transport for NSW and the NSW Government’s Chief Data Scientist.

Alignment with *Future Transport 2056*

The EMPA program provides a multidisciplinary curriculum integrating theory and practical application tailored to meet the needs of today’s public service.

The NSW Public Service Commission endorsed EMPA program explores the core principles of public sector leadership, services management and how to mobilise resources and others to deliver public value.

The EMPA program builds the capability of leaders, which will enable leaders who have participated in the program to effectively support delivery of Future Transport 2056 outcomes.

Disclosure Summary

Date	Organisation/Individual	Purpose of Meeting
21 November 2022	EMPA Work Based Project Group	Review materials and prepare for course delivery Meeting with Work Based Project team for preparation of presentation for delivery at Day 2.
22 November 2022	Australia and New Zealand School of Government	Attendance of course delivery day 1 with leaders from public sector agencies across Australia and New Zealand.
23 November 2022	Australia and New Zealand School of Government	Attendance of course delivery day 2 with leaders from public sector agencies across Australia and New Zealand.

Next steps

Research findings have been shared with industry practitioners across NSW government and other jurisdictions. Ms McPhee is scheduled to complete the EMPA programme in 2024.



Expense Summary

Breakdown of all costs incurred	Actual Cost
Airfares – GL 534030	842.00
Accommodation – GL 534040	698.27
Official hospitality – GL 534050	0
Attendance fees for delegates – GL 534050	0
Ground transport – GL 534050	19.57
Meals and refreshments – GL 534050	15.80
Other miscellaneous costs – GL 534050	0
Total	1,575.64

Note: original approved budget was \$2,933 and trip was completed with expenses below approved budget.

Traveller endorsement

Secretary

<p>Rebecca McPhee</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive, Head Customer, Operations & Outcomes Sydney Metro</p>  <p>Date: 28/03/2023</p>	<p>Peter Regan</p> <p>Chief Executive Sydney Metro</p>  <p>Date: 05 April 2023</p>	<p>Rob Sharp Secretary</p> <p align="center">Noted</p> <p>Date: 05/04/2023</p>
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**Please send your Post Travel Report, within 28 days from travel, to the Office of the Secretary.*

Background

TfNSW have formally sponsored and supported Ms McPhee's participation in the Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) program commencing in 2021. The EMPA is a NSW Public Service Commission endorsed program designed to produce critical thinking public sector leaders with the skills required to manage complex challenges.

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The EMPA is delivered through a dynamic blended learning approach, combining online classes with face-to-face learning with cross-jurisdictional teams. The capstone Work Based Project subject was delivered face-to-face in Wellington, New Zealand in November 2022. The capstone subject involves the practical application of the skills and knowledge gained throughout the degree. Designed to replicate specific aspects of the workplace environment in government, the work-based project requires students to bring a complex task nominated by a public sector agency to a successful conclusion within a team that spans working backgrounds, disciplines, organisations and jurisdictions. Ms McPhee has been working as part of a cross-jurisdictional team since February 2022 to research the ethical implementation of Artificial Intelligence by government agencies.

Attendance was mandatory to complete program requirements, including assessable presentation of findings from a research project undertaken over the last year.