

**Post travel report by Councillor Wood, Ecocity World Summit Abu Dhabi  
October 2015****15 December 2015****Presenter:** Councillor Arron Wood**Purpose and background**

1. To report to Council on travel undertaken by Councillor Arron Wood as part of the bid delegation to Abu Dhabi for the Ecocity World Summit for the period 11 to 13 October 2015 to accept Melbourne's successful bid as host city for the 2017 Summit.
2. Councillor Wood's travel proposal was approved by Council on 29 September 2015.
3. The Ecocity World Summit is the longest running conference for ecological city design, development and function in the world. The City of Melbourne worked closely with the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) on the bid submission to secure the Ecocity World Summit 2017. Several letters of support were secured from influential international companies and organisations and Melbourne's sister city Tianjin provided official endorsement of Melbourne, in its capacity as a best practice urban model and its work in the integration of solar technology.

**Key issues**

4. The bid delegation consisted of Councillor Wood, appointed conference organiser Gerard Halpin, General Manager Waldron Smith and Professor Paul James, Director Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University (co-local host organisation with the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute).
5. The hosting announcement featured a welcome message from the Lord Mayor and presentation by Councillor Wood outlining Melbourne's leading role in setting ambitious targets and key initiatives in water, waste, energy, open space and urban design. Positive feedback was received by the Ecocity Board, United Arab Emirates VIPs and delegates conveying an enthusiasm for attending the Summit in 2017; and recognition of the appropriateness of Melbourne being awarded the hosting duty.
6. The bid delegation met with the Ecocity Board and the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre to discuss the planning experience of 2015 and establish expectations for the 2017 summit. Discussions centred on devising a strategic approach to planning, key milestone reporting, marketing plans and sales promotion. Early involvement in these discussions enabled introductions to Melbourne's existing sustainable city networks along with a recognition of the importance of integrating Melbourne's sustainability credentials into the 2017 offer.
7. Site visits were undertaken to Masdar City; a city designed using traditional architecture and modern technology, aiming to demonstrate a 'green print' for zero emission, zero waste cities. The city is powered by renewable energy and aims to accommodate 90,000 people through a residential and commercial mix.
8. Media following the hosting announcement and the heavy presence of Melbourne's sustainability offer on [www.ecocity2017.com](http://www.ecocity2017.com) have created further opportunities to showcase Melbourne's contribution to innovation, sustainability and advancing technology in urban design.
9. A working group will be established, including delegation members and Business and Tourism branch representatives, to analyse insights from the 2015 Summit and facilitate early planning for the delivery of a successful 2017 Summit enhancing Melbourne's reputation as a world-leading sustainable city.

**Recommendation**

10. That Council note the report by Councillor Arron Wood on participation in the Ecocity World Summit held in Abu Dhabi between 11 and 13 October 2015.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment

## Supporting Attachment

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### Finance

1. Partial costs associated with Councillor Wood's travel were funded by the Melbourne Convention Bureau. Total cost to Council was \$3,213 which comprised airfare (\$2,982) and incidentals (\$231).

### Conflict of interest

2. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### Relation to Council policy

3. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel costs accord with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.

### Environmental sustainability

4. The focus of the summit sits within the City of Melbourne's eco-city goals.
5. The purchase of carbon offsets reduced the carbon emissions impact of the flights.