

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.1

Proposed attendance by Councillor Cathy Oke at the Climate Action Roundtable and Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum Brisbane, and Strategic Partnerships for the implementation of the Paris Agreement meeting Canberra, in June 2019

28 May 2019

Presenter: Councillor Cathy Oke

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Councillor Cathy Oke to participate in the following:
 - 1.1. The Climate Action Roundtable and Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum in Brisbane, Queensland.
 - 1.2. The Strategic Partnerships for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) roundtable in Canberra.
2. Councillor Oke is Chair Environment Portfolio, Deputy Chair Aboriginal Portfolio and First Vice President, ICLEI Global Executive Committee.

Key issues

3. A member of the 'Under2 Coalition', the Queensland Government seeks to raise the policy and action ambition of subnational governments through the Climate Action Roundtable (Roundtable) and the Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum (Forum) to be held in Brisbane in June.
4. Councillor Oke has been invited by the Lord Mayor Sally Capp to attend the University of Queensland breakfast reception for representatives from across Australia and the Asia-Pacific, Roundtable and Forum as her delegate. The invitation-only meetings with representatives from subnational governments and Australian states and territories, small island nations and the Asia-Pacific region are positioned as precursors to a UN Climate Week event in New York in September this year. The invitation to the Lord Mayor is included as Attachment 2.
5. The City of Melbourne Climate Change Mitigation Strategy recognises we need to take urgent action, together with the Victorian and Australian governments to limit global warming to 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement. An overarching advocacy action within the Strategy is to advocate to the federal government to increase the ambition of Australia's climate policy with science-based targets.
6. An advocacy plan is in development to use City of Melbourne's leadership position on climate change to add our voice to the national debate. The draft plan identifies collaboration with allies, such as Capital Cities and the state government, as an effective way to influence policy outcomes. The Roundtable and the Forum, with representation from all Australian states, provides a solid platform for City of Melbourne to advance our advocacy for urgent climate action and amplify our voice in the national debate.
7. The Strategic Partnerships for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) are holding a Roundtable in June on the use of the *National Consultation on the Global Covenant of Mayors framework for local government climate action in Australia* to build a unified Australia wide local government effort to meet Paris and local ambition.
8. Councillor Oke, First Vice President ICLEI Global Executive Committee, has been invited to speak at the SPIPA roundtable. ICLEI Oceania will fund Councillor Oke's travel to Canberra.

Recommendation

9. That Council approves Councillor Cathy Oke's proposal to participate in the University of Queensland breakfast reception for representatives from across Australia and the Asia-Pacific, Climate Action Roundtable and Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum in Brisbane, Queensland at a cost to Council of up to \$1550 and the Strategic Partnerships for the implementation of the Paris Agreement Roundtable in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory at no cost to Council.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 3)
2. Invitation (Page 3 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Finance

2. The cost to Council associated with Councillor Oke's travel to Brisbane is estimated at \$1550, airfares \$1100, accommodation \$250 and local transportation costs \$200.
3. ICLEI Oceania will fund the cost of Councillor Oke's attendance at the SPIPA roundtable in Cairns (there is no cost to Council).

Conflict of interest

4. 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

5. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the proposed travel accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
6. The objectives of the proposed travel align with the Council Plan goal of *A City that cares for its environment* and a range of environmental and sustainability strategies and policies including the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy.

Health and Safety

7. Councillor Oke will undertake standard personal safety and awareness precautionary steps which apply to travel.

Environmental sustainability

8. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to Brisbane will be offset with the purchase of credits.



Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Encl. (3)

8 MAY 2019

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The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne
Councillor Sally Capp
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Lord Mayor

Meeting Confirmation: Climate Action Roundtable and Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum

Last month, I wrote to you to advise of two upcoming events to be held in Brisbane during Climate Week QLD on Tuesday, 4 June 2019. Specifically:

- *Climate Action Roundtable (CAR)*: This forum involves Australian State and Territory Environment and Climate Change Ministers as well as Australian Lord Mayor representatives.
- *Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum*: This forum will be hosted by The Climate Group, Secretariat of the Under2 Coalition with officials from Australian States and Territories and the Asia-Pacific region.

Previously, I noted that these events will coincide with a visit to Brisbane by the Honourable Al Gore, 45th Vice-President of the United States of America to conduct the Climate Reality Leadership Training Corps for up to 1000 people from across Australia and the Pacific from 5 to 7 June 2019 through the Climate Reality Project.

I am now delighted to confirm the above referenced events and provide specific details, which are attached, along with a broad outline of the Climate Week QLD 2019 program. There are a number of events around these key meetings that you or your department officials may be interested in attending. I have attached the draft agenda for the *Knowledge Sharing Symposium: Subnational Climate Action in Asia-Pacific*, which will be held on 5 June 2019. More information on Climate Week QLD can be found at www.climateweekqld.com.

I look forward to receiving your RSVP in relation to CAR and the Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum. Please direct your RSVP for both events to Ms Martine Crowe by email at MCrowe@theclimategroup.org.

If your officers require any further information, they can contact Ms Patricia Camino, Principal Policy Officer – Climate Change and Sustainable Futures, Environmental Policy and Programs, Department of Environment and Science by email at patricia.camino@des.qld.gov.au or on telephone (07) 3330 5163.

Yours sincerely 