

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**Agenda item 6.3****City Champions for Heat Action initiative****7 June 2022****Presenter:** Tiffany Crawford, Co-Director Climate Change and City Resilience**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from the Future Melbourne Committee for the City of Melbourne to join the City Champions for Heat Action (CCHA) initiative.
2. The CCHA initiative is run by the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre ('Arsht-Rock'). In January 2022, Arsht-Rock invited City of Melbourne to become a CCHA (Attachment 2). It is seeking up to two cities to be champions in each region, and Melbourne has been sought out as the Oceania CCHA in recognition of the Lord Mayor's leadership.
3. Arsht-Rock is a US-based not-for-profit organisation that launched in 2019. Arsht-Rock is backed by its two namesake philanthropists – Adrienne Arsht and the Rockefeller Foundation – and supports global networks and programs that address global humanitarian and environmental issues like climate change and disaster resilience.
4. City of Melbourne is already associated with the Rockefeller Foundation through the Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities). R-Cities evolved from the former 100 Resilient Cities Program, and functions as a knowledge sharing and collaboration network between cities on issues of urban resilience.
5. Heatwaves have significant economic and health impacts on the city and its community. Research undertaken on the 2014 heatwave showed city businesses lost an estimated \$37 million in revenue over the four days. Heatwaves and extreme heat kill more people in Australia than all other natural disasters combined. Action is needed now to avoid further costs and implications for the city and its community, particularly as the frequency and intensity of heatwaves is projected to increase.

Key issues

6. In 2020, Arsht-Rock formed a partnership to tackle extreme heat – a silent killer that kills more people than other natural disasters. The partnership is called the 'Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance' and City of Melbourne is a founding member. The CCHA is a cornerstone program of the Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance. It is a global initiative that brings together experts, governments, and decision-makers to develop and deliver heat resilient solutions.
7. The CCHA initiative seeks to achieve three things: i) put spotlight on the issue of extreme heat; ii) develop tailor made solutions to address heat hazards; and, iii) use champions to advocate for greater action.
8. Becoming a CCHA would provide multiple benefits to the municipality including raising awareness in the community and maximising heat and health related communications aligned to Neighbourhood Plans; creating a point for management to coalesce on heat reduction activities, including priorities identified in the Council Plan such as implementing the Urban Forest Strategy, advocacy for improved building standards, and enhancing community resilience to heatwaves; and, finally support delivery of Major Initiatives 52 Community Disaster Resilience and 37 Implementation of a Neighbourhood Model.
9. The Arsht-Rock Foundation provides resources (Attachment 3) to CCHA cities including technical support and access to experts (research, engineering etc.) to develop and deliver targeted solutions that reduce extreme heat in the partner city; access to global media networks and international events; and a financial contribution of \$50,000 USD per year for a position that will support the delivery of the initiative. Management will use these funds to appoint an expert 'Heat Champion' that can support targeted communications to the community. A partnership model with an external organisation, such as a university or NGO will be pursued for this appointment.
10. Management have developed a program for participation as a CCHA. It builds on existing projects, and prioritises the gaps and opportunities for addressing extreme heat. These include: a heat and health campaign; conceiving of the 'city as a refuge' during hot weather events; and advocating for heat action.

Recommendation from management

11. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 11.1. Endorse the City of Melbourne to join the City Champions for Heat Action initiative.
 - 11.2. Authorise the General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre.
 - 11.3. Endorse management exploring a model with a university or NGO to support a 'Heat Champion' function through the funding provided by Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 7)
2. Arsht-Rock – Invitation (Page 5 of 7)
3. Arsht-Rock - Letter of support (Page 7 of 7)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. Legal advice will be provided as required in respect to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Finance

2. There are no direct financial implications of this recommendation. All actions are included in existing Council endorsed strategies and plans, with the financial contribution of \$50,000 USD to appoint a 'Heat Champion' through a partnership model with a university or NGO.

Conflict of interest

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

Health and Safety

4. Council Plan 2021-2025 commits City of Melbourne to plan and design for the safety and wellbeing of those who live, visit, work and do business in Melbourne, regardless of their background. One of the major initiatives under this commitment is to engage and prepare residents and communities to enhance their resilience to hazards, disasters and the health impacts of climate change. The recommendations in this report have been developed in line with this commitment.
5. Along with greater risk of mortality, heatwaves also put pressure on health services. The 2009 heatwave increased demand on health services including a 46 per cent increase in ambulance callouts and a 12 per cent increase in emergency department presentations.

Stakeholder consultations

6. Upon joining the CCHA initiative the City of Melbourne would host a launch event to be held in September/October 2022. The proposed program of work to be commenced in 2022-23 would also be confirmed at this time.
7. Representatives (subject matter experts) from the City of Melbourne participated in discussions with Arsht-Rock, and were provided with opportunities to shape the proposed work program.
8. All actions are consistent with existing Council endorsed strategies and plans, which have undergone extensive stakeholder engagement processes during their development.

Relation to Council policy

9. The CCHA initiative supports the delivery of several Council Plan Major Initiatives including:
 - 9.1. Major Initiative 11: Embed the Sustainable Development Goals in the way City of Melbourne plans, prioritises its investments, reports and benchmarks against other cities.
 - 9.2. Major Initiative 28: To enhance Melbourne's position as a global leader on climate action, we will undertake bold advocacy on behalf of our community.
 - 9.3. Major Initiative 35: Implement the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Action plan.
 - 9.4. Major Initiative 52: Engage and prepare residents and communities to enhance their resilience to hazards, disasters and the health impacts of climate change.

10. The CCHA initiative is consistent with the following Council policy:

10.1. Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Refresh 2017.

10.2. Urban Forest Strategy 2012-2032.

10.3. Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Declaration Response 2020

Environmental sustainability

11. The recommendation highlights Council's commitments to manage climate change risk, as outlined in the above endorsed strategies.

12. The CCHA initiative demonstrates leadership and innovation in addressing the impacts of urban heat and provides an example for other cities to follow.



Adrienne Arsht-
Rockefeller Foundation
Resilience Center

January 17, 2022

The Hon. Sally Capp
Lord Mayor of Melbourne
City of Melbourne
Australia

Dear Lord Mayor,

Greetings from Washington, D.C.! I write with a proposal and an opportunity to collaborate on taking on one of the biggest threats of climate change. Extreme heat, often called the “silent killer,” is one of the most dangerous, yet least acknowledged climate risks, and it kills more people than any other climate-related hazard. As you know, extreme heat is not visually dramatic as are floods, forest fires, or hurricanes, yet, during 2020, heat killed 20 times more people than hurricanes in the U.S. The growing frequency, duration, and intensity of heat waves – (last decade the hottest ever recorded) – will affect more than 3.5 billion people globally by 2070, 1.6 billion of whom will live in dense urban areas. Melbourne is no stranger to heat, with recent years showing intense, high temperatures effecting the health and livelihoods of the communities.

Rising temperatures also threaten economies around the world. The International Labour Organization projects that heat stress will reduce global GDP by USD\$2.4 trillion in 2030. Cities worldwide are heavily impacted by extreme heat, with the health of their residents and their economies, particularly at risk.

For these reasons, the organization that I lead, the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center (Arsht-Rock) at the Atlantic Council in Washington DC, formed the Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance (EHRA) in August 2020. EHRA is comprised of over 35 global city leaders and experts in public health, finance, humanitarian assistance, disaster management, climate science and risk, insurance, and public infrastructure. EHRA’s goal is to protect lives and livelihoods from extreme heat with a focus on the most vulnerable people and communities. We are proud to have the City of Melbourne as one of EHRA’s founding members.

A cornerstone initiative of EHRA is ‘City Champions for Heat Action’ (CCHA), which helps leaders define and communicate the ill effects of heat, identify solutions, and mobilize partners to tackle extreme heat to save lives. CCHA currently works closely with Athens, Freetown, Miami-Dade County, and Seville and brings a variety of locally appropriate solutions to address heat-health-related risks, from supporting the appointment of Chief Heat Officers, designing and implementing heat season awareness campaigns, to developing systems for naming and categorizing heat waves.

Given the recognized and leading role that you and your city play in global climate action and resilience building, I have the pleasure to invite Melbourne to be part of the distinguished founding group of City Champions for Heat Action. By being part of this endeavor, Melbourne will receive communications support; technical assistance; a ready-to-implement roadmap for decision-makers to reduce the risk of heat to their most vulnerable citizens; connection with a network of global cities that are working to address heat risks; and the opportunity to display your leadership on this issue in the international arena and to encourage other cities to follow.

When you join City Champions for Heat Action, your city will benefit from EHRA's capacity-building assistance to designate a Chief Heat Officer (CHO) (someone from within your team or a new hire). The CHO will manage heat-reducing and protective actions for vulnerable communities across your city's relevant departments and will coordinate with CCHA the support that Melbourne will receive from its participation in this initiative.

Melbourne, like many areas in Australia, is currently suffering the impact of a severe heat season. Considering the urgency of the situation, we would be ready to immediately implement our collaboration with you and your city. We envision that this Oceania CCHA launch event in Melbourne will feature key global press coverage to highlight your leadership and commitment to address this life-threatening, climate-related issue.

Please find attached a brief overview of EHRA and CCHA, as well as a document with links to some of the press coverage we've received during the past months of our work to raise the awareness of and catalyze action on this growing threat.

We look forward to your response at your earliest convenience and are pleased to schedule a call to further discuss our proposal.

Kind regards,



Kathy Baughman McLeod
Senior Vice President & Director
Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center



Adrienne Arsht-
Rockefeller Foundation
Resilience Center

April 15, 2022

The Hon. Sally Capp Lord
Mayor of Melbourne
City of Melbourne
Australia

Dear Lord Mayor,

We look forward to working together to combat the effects of extreme heat through Melbourne's potential participation in City Champions for Heat Action. Given your city's longtime leadership and expertise on this issue, we foresee a productive and mutually beneficial partnership. We applaud your work to date on protecting Melbourne's most vulnerable citizens from heat and are eager to learn from your team's experiences while sharing what we have learned from our own work around the globe.

There are a wide range of opportunities for our work together, including the piloting of a heat wave naming and categorization system based on forecasted health outcomes, development of key metrics around heat resilience, creation of an integrated heat action plan, support to on-the-ground projects, creation of new heat awareness communications tools, and joint work to safeguard Melbourne's tourism industry against heat waves. Our team at the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center is already advancing similar projects in several cities around the world and is well-placed to offer technical expertise on adapting these efforts to Melbourne's specific needs and priorities. For example, in Athens, Greece, we are working to preserve Athens' reputation as a historic and safe tourist destination by partnering with Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis on one of the world's first heat wave categorization systems, which will alert and provide actionable guidance to citizens when a particularly deadly heat wave is forecasted. We are also working with the regional authorities around Athens to advance a green infrastructure project that will revitalize the nearly 2,000-year-old Hadrian's Aqueduct and cool the surrounding area. We would work with your team to identify what projects make the most sense to collaborate on, and draw from the deep expertise of the [Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance](#) to support these efforts. Finally, we are willing to provide financial support for a position that would lead on heat-related work in Melbourne, given the need for cross-sectoral coordination on this issue.

Melbourne is a world leader on the issue of extreme heat, and we would welcome the opportunity to partner with you on advancing our shared heat resilience agenda. The tools that City Champions for Heat Action would provide your city would raise the international visibility of Melbourne further on this issue, and encourage other cities to follow your example. We look forward to hearing from you, and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Baughman McLeod".

Kathy Baughman McLeod
Senior Vice President & Director
Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center