

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**Agenda item 6.3****Opportunity for international engagement, Lord Mayor, COP28, Dubai, November/December 2023****14 November 2023****Presenter:** Evan Counsel, General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Future Melbourne Committee approval for the Lord Mayor to travel to Dubai to participate and present at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) for the period 30 November to 6 December 2023.
2. COP 28 President Dr Sultan and United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solution, Michael Bloomberg, have invited the Lord Mayor to attend COP28 and participate in the Local Action Summit. A copy of the letter of invitation is included as Attachment 2.

Key issues

3. The COP28 Local Climate Action Summit will be a first-of-its-kind gathering, taking place in the UN Blue Zone with member states, to recognise the critical role Mayors and local leaders play in reducing emissions, addressing climate risk, and supercharging national efforts to move further and faster on climate progress. Hosted by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Summit aims to bring together hundreds of national and subnational climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance global action, fast-track the energy transition, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level.
4. The Lord Mayor's presence will be a crucial opportunity to secure greater support delivery of city climate projects, and include the following opportunities:
 - 4.1. showcasing Melbourne's leadership in climate, in particular, presenting at the Local Climate Action Summit
 - 4.2. advocating for finance instruments that enable cities to access an estimated \$2.4 billion available globally for climate action projects
 - 4.3. promoting City of Melbourne's ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation targets and initiatives including for example Power Melbourne, Retrofit Melbourne and creating a Heat Safe City
 - 4.4. meeting with companies that can progress commercial opportunities in support of climate resilience in Melbourne including for example water and greening technology providers
 - 4.5. meeting with philanthropic funders to explore opportunities for project funding in Melbourne
 - 4.6. engaging with State and Federal Governments senior representatives involved in Australia's formal negotiations and its bid to host COP 31
 - 4.7. meeting with Mayors to learn about successful projects in their cities.
5. Participation in COP28 is aligned to achieving Council Plan 2021-2025 and major initiatives in Council's Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Declaration.
6. The Lord Mayor's participation will be jointly funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Council. Bloomberg Philanthropies will cover most costs with Council funding partial accommodation and incidentals estimated at \$3450.

Recommendation from management

7. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 7.1. approves the Lord Mayor's participation at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Dubai between 30 November and 6 December 2023 at an estimated cost to Council of \$3450
 - 7.2. notes that a report will be prepared for the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 3)
2. Lord Mayor invitation to CoP 28 Local Climate Action Summit (Page 3 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The costs associated with the Lord Mayor's travel will be jointly met by the Bloomberg Philanthropies and Council.
2. Bloomberg Philanthropies will cover the majority of travel costs including airfare, accommodation for three nights and some incidentals.
3. The cost to Council is estimated at \$3450 and will cover accommodation for a further three nights (\$1650) and incidentals (\$1800) needed for the duration of travel.
4. Costs will be met from the existing budget allocation.

Conflict of interest

5. 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

6. In developing this proposal, no occupational health and safety issues have been identified.
7. In undertaking international travel, the Lord Mayor will adhere to and be guided by international health, safety and security measures including those identified by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Relation to Council policy

8. The Executive Officer Councillor Liaison has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Council Expenses Policy.
9. Participation at COP28 is aligned to Council Plan 2021-2025 and major initiatives in Climate and Biodiversity Emergency.

Environmental sustainability

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



October 13, 2023

The Right Honorable Sally Capp
Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne

Dear Lord Mayor Capp:

We are delighted to invite you to the inaugural Local Climate Action Summit, held during COP28 at Expo City Dubai from December 1-2, 2023. Hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the COP28 Presidency, this historic convening will recognize the critical role of local leaders in reducing emissions, addressing climate risk, and supercharging national efforts to move further and faster on climate progress.

Over the last decade, subnational governments have played a critical role in climate mitigation and adaptation as many cities are reducing per capita emissions faster than their national governments. With an expected 70% of the global population to live in cities by 2050 and climate-driven natural disasters on the rise, more needs to be done faster to reduce emissions and ensure subnational governments are equipped for population growth and the economic, social, and environmental challenges resulting from a warming planet

Cross-sector and multi-level governmental cooperation is critical to retaining climate ambition, especially as the first Global Stocktake – an assessment of progress towards delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement – concludes at COP28 and reveals the gaps in our efforts to keep a 1.5° C future within reach.

Backed by world-leading networks of local leaders including the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), United States Conference of Mayors, the Under2 Coalition, and others, the Summit aims to bring together hundreds of national and subnational climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance multilevel action, fast-track the energy transition, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level.

The cost of travel, lodging, and most meals while attending the Local Climate Action Summit will be covered by C40 Cities Climate Leadership group. Public officials, including any employee of a government entity, should consult applicable rules and regulations to ensure that their attendance (including the acceptance of related costs) complies.

Our team would be glad to answer any questions you might have. To RSVP, please reply to this email or email specialevents@bloomberg.org.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to seeing you in December.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy
on Climate Ambition and Solution

H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber
COP28 President-Designate
UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change