

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.1

Post travel report by Councillor Arron Wood, USA, November 2014

24 February 2015

Presenter: Councillor Arron Wood

Purpose and background

1. To report to Council on the travel undertaken by Councillor Arron Wood to represent the City of Melbourne at meetings in Boston and New York in 2014.
2. On 14 October 2014, the Future Melbourne Committee approved the proposal for Councillor Wood to travel to Boston and New York following an invitation to the Lord Mayor to participate in the Initiative on Cities Symposium on Sea Level Rise and the Future of Coastal Cities. Councillor Wood also met with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, 100 Resilient Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation and the New York City Council's Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

Key issues

3. The symposium examined how cities are planning for, and adapting to, rising sea levels, extreme weather events and changing coast lines. Best practise in application of design principles and innovations increasing resilience and reducing risks to cities were highlighted. Councillor Wood presented at the Mayors Roundtable on the City of Melbourne's sustainability and adaptation program. Attachment 2 details the full symposium agenda.
4. Attachment 3 details meetings held prior to the symposium including discussions, benefits and outcomes.
5. Whilst meeting with C40, discussions were held on the benefits for Melbourne in joining the Compact of Mayors launched in September 2014 at the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in New York City.
6. Also discussed were the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) and the role for cities in advocating for universal agreement on climate. C40 & Siemens City Climate Leadership Awards are to be held in Paris in 2015 to leverage the opportunity to highlight action taken by cities. The importance for Melbourne to participate in the COP21 taskforce, as a leading C40 network city, was also highlighted.
7. Preliminary works on a draft MOU renewing the Melbourne-Boston sister city relationship were undertaken in the lead up to and during Councillor Wood's visit. The focus of the MOU is on mutual exchange in sustainability and clean technologies, promotion in research and development of energy efficiency, sustainability development and urban mobility, and collaboration on addressing common challenges related to climate change and carbon emissions reduction. The City of Boston also proposed to initiate a masters student internship under the auspices of the Initiative on Cities Student Fellowship – Boston.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 7.1. Notes this report and the attached summary of benefits and outcomes.
- 7.2. Advocates for the delivery of a long term Flood Management Plan for Melbourne.
- 7.3. Notes that the City of Melbourne has recently joined the Compact of Mayors and will implement the newly standardised measurement system to report on Council's progress towards its targets.
- 7.4. Continues to pursue opportunities to expand leadership roles for the City of Melbourne in the C40 network and 100 Resilient Cities Network.
- 7.5. Pursues opportunities for the City of Melbourne to be represented in advocacy bodies in the lead up to COP21.
- 7.6. Continues working with the City of Boston to deliver a renewed Melbourne-Boston sister city MOU and pursues the opportunity of a student internship through the Initiative on Cities Student Fellowship – Boston.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Agenda - Sea Level Rise and the Future of Coastal Cities Symposium
3. Meetings summary: discussions, benefits and outcomes

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. Councillor Wood's travel was jointly funded by the Initiative on Cities at Boston University. The Initiative covered 2 nights' accommodation and \$US7000 of airfare expenses. At the time of seeking approval to travel, the airfare contribution was estimated at \$7986 based on the rate of exchange at that period. At the time of preparation of this report the transfer of funds to the City of Melbourne was being finalised.
2. Based on receipt of an amount of \$7986, the cost to Council is estimated at \$5989.64 and comprises accommodation expenses of \$2618.41 for five nights, remaining airfare costs of \$2157.32 and incidentals of \$1213.91. The costs were met from the existing budget allocation.
3. The confirmed cost, which will vary due to exchange rates, will be published in the travel register available on Council's web site at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au.

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 Services has confirmed that the travel costs accord with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.

Environmental sustainability

6. The focus of the symposium sits within the City of Melbourne's eco-city goals, specifically within the outcomes addressing sustainable water management and climate change impacts on the municipality.

Agenda - Sea Level Rise and the Future of Coastal Cities Symposium

Boston University Initiative on Cities and The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future

Thursday 13 November 2014

5 PM	<p>MAYORS ROUNDTABLE: A Discussion with Mayors of Leading Coastal Cities</p> <p>U.S. and international elected officials will discuss how they are overcoming challenges – from resource constraints to competing priorities and constituent scepticism – to adapt coastal cities to meet 21st century environmental threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA • Christian Bollwage, Mayor of Elizabeth, NJ • Arron Wood, City Councillor, Melbourne, Australia • <i>Moderator: Bob Oakes, Host, Morning Edition, WBUR</i>
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Friday 14 November 2014

9:00 AM	<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Wilson, Co-Director, Initiative on Cities, Boston University • Robert Brown, President, Boston University
9:15 AM	<p>THE SCIENCE OF SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Leading Climate Scientists will discuss the threats facing coastal cities, from rare catastrophic events to gradual sea level rise.</p> <p><u>Keynote:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Janetos, Director of Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Willis, Project Scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology • Erika Spanger-Siegfried, Senior Analyst, Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists • Scott Doney, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution • <i>Moderator: Nathan Phillips, Professor of Earth and Environment, Boston University</i>
10:45 AM	<p>BREAK</p>

<p>11 AM</p>	<p>HOW CITIES ARE ADAPTING TO RISING SEAS AND SHIFTING COASTLINES</p> <p>Public sector officials will provide insight on the practical mechanisms cities and government agencies are deploying to help urban areas combat and adapt to climate change, including regulatory enhancements, public education, open data platforms, and design improvements.</p> <p><u>Keynote:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Stearns, Judge, U.S. District Court, State of Massachusetts <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Swett, Chief of Energy, Environment & Open Space, City of Boston • David Uschold, Historical Landscape Architect, U.S. National Park Service • Maria Jaakkola, Head of the Environmental Office, City Planning Department, Helsinki Finland • Hermes Redi, Chief Executive, Consorzio Venezia Nuova, Venice, Italy • <i>Moderator: Daniel Bluestone, Director of Preservation Studies, Boston University</i>
<p>12:30 PM</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>1:30 PM</p>	<p>DESIGN INNOVATIONS AND RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR</p> <p>Leading designers, developers and risk managers will discuss innovative design interventions and risk mitigation strategies for combating sea level rise in heavily populated urban centers.</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan Koop, Senior Vice President, Boston Properties • Jason Hellendrung, Principal, Sasaki Associates • Lindene Patton, Former Chief Climate Product Officer for Zurich Insurance Group • <i>Moderator: Paul McManus, Senior Lecturer, Strategy and Innovation, Boston University School of Management</i>
<p>2:30 PM</p>	<p>INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS, SHARED MISSIONS</p> <p>A multi-discipline panel will discuss how research institutions, and particularly universities, can collaborate with outside partners such as federal, state and local governments to identify the most fertile technologies and strategies for combating sea level rise and shifting coast lines.</p> <p><u>Keynote:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bud Ris, Former President and CEO, New England Aquarium and Former CEO, Union of Concerned Scientists <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloria Waters, Vice President and Associate Provost of Research, Boston University • Joan Fitzgerald, Director of the Law and Public Policy Program, Northeastern University • Andrew Rosenberg, Director, Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists • <i>Moderator: Lucy Hutyra, Professor of Earth and Environment, Boston University</i>

4 PM	CLOSING SUMMARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Abel, Environmental Reporter for The Boston Globe
4:30 PM	RECEPTION

This event is being co-sponsored by the [Initiative on Cities](#) at Boston University and [The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future](#).

Meetings summary: discussions, benefits and outcomes

‘There is no issue more urgent than climate action. When we work together, the steps we take do more than protect us; they can bring us closer together, they can create good jobs, they can improve our health, our public space and our civic life.’

Mayor Walsh, City of Boston

NEW YORK	
<p>Monday 10 November 2014</p> <p>Dan Zarrilli, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency</p> <p>Michael Berkowitz, Managing Director, 100 Resilient Cities and Bryna Lipper, Vice President for Relationships, 100 Resilient Cities</p> <p>Nancy Kete, Managing Director, Resilience Program Team, The Rockefeller Foundation</p>	<p>NOTES</p> <p>Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan NYC primarily about population growth, post Sandy infrastructure. • 30 people in resilience department, 20 billion for Resilience Strategy, 15 billion already funded (including some Federal funding). • Strategy is 10 year plan, 1 year into. • Re-build by design (335 million); perimeter ring of parks. • Main themes: coastal defences, upgrade buildings, tighter planning for new buildings, upgrades for existing, protecting infrastructure, making community more resilient socially and economically. • How do we protect against the next Sandy is wrong question. Are our electricity, transport, water and important infrastructure/systems going to withstand greater weather extremes as climate changes? Is NY truly on path towards becoming a more resilient city. What short, medium, long term actions need to be taken to ensure actions are holistic socially, environmentally and economically as opposed to simply building ‘walls’ or hard engineering protection. <p>100 Resilient Cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program update, 25 CROs appointed from 33 cities. • Brief on Melbourne’s communications and media response to CRO appointment. • Foundation’s expectations of 100 Resilient Member Cities include identifying focus areas and strategy release times. • Likely strategy completion times to be extended. • New city announcements in December 2014. • Possibilities of linkage with C40. • Cities MOU in development, adaptation agenda working well.

	<p>The Rockefeller Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and Resilience Institute previously. • New NGO - Focus on Jamaica Bay (where hurricane Sandy hit), complications with too many different land managers. • Structures of coastal resilience, global circulation models, rebuild by design, commercial garages as water storage. • Rebuild by design project commitment to funding projects designing resilient standards of development and infrastructure that respond to community need especially following disaster recovery. (http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/)
<p>Tuesday 11 November</p> <p>Laura Jay, Network Director, Sustainable Urban Development, C40</p> <p>Brooke Russell, Head of Editorial and Content, Communications, C40</p> <p>Eric Ast, Manager for Research Special Projects, C40</p>	<p>NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 the 10th anniversary of C40. • C40 base of peer to peer exchange, now 70 cities, role for Melbourne in building trust through networks and showcasing actual features eg. Docklands library. • Leadership opportunities - thought development, facilitation and expert voices. Importance of timing and momentum. Upcoming plans for the Sustainable Urban Development Network. • Role of leadership city and discussions on opportunities for Melbourne. • Updates and general messaging re: the Compact of Mayors and broader city diplomacy work and commitments. • Compact of Mayors FAQ delivery to all cities. Application for Melbourne using standard measurements. Publicly disclose results. • Developments on communications platforms and partnerships – opportunities for cities. • Blog published twice per week – editorial and content is global. • Updates on 80x50 initiative. • General research focus — Climate Risk Assessment Framework and Tool (CRAFT), key findings of city diplomacy related researches (shared during the Climate Summit), general partnerships and role of city-based universities. • Greenhouse gas emissions (launching at Lima COP). • What can C40 do in lead up to Paris COP 2015? Siemens awards to be in Paris opportunity to highlight action that cities are taking; importance of representation on taskforce. • March 2015 regional Mayors summit in Latin America.

BOSTON	
<p>Wednesday 12 November</p> <p>Graham Wilson, Chair of the Political Science department, Co-director Initiative on Cities</p> <p>Tour: Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems</p> <p>Tour: Spaulding Rehab Center</p> <p>City of Boston, Boston's green building & planning, harbour planning</p> <p>City of Boston: District energy planning</p> <p>Greenovate Boston</p>	<p>NOTES</p> <p>Fraunhofer Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolutionary solar, easy installation, no structural inspection required. • Self-registered with electrical grid. • Utilities have mandates to increase solar so they are more amenable in fact they partner on the project. • Solar park ready for commercial availability in the market by 2016. • Also look at energy behaviour and retrofit of building such as easy insulation, building enclosure. • Fruanhofer there was tax credit incentive for heritage building and hence the centre located in the sea fearer district in a derelict heritage building over 100 years old and vacant for 10 years. It now acts as a living lab for building retro fit. • Fee for service and some state funding (utilities funding and philanthropic donations matched dollar for dollar by German parent company). • Focus in on applied research and development, usually find home with a university. <p>Spaulding Rehab Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaulding Centre preparedness measures less than 0.8 per cent of overall cost. • Spaulding Centre built to withstand sea level rise beyond 100 years. • All electrics located on roof, control centre on 3rd floor. Plantings, walls and boulders form a protective reef around building. • Triple glazed windows, co-gen, low energy use lighting. <p>Boston Redevelopment Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Redevelopment Authority; economic development, urban planning, renewal and research authority for City of Boston. Developments respond to climate preparedness questionnaire, assessed on average life expectancy including a reasonable level of flood protection. Hurricane Sandy showed that better designed buildings bounced back more quickly, lessening the cost of disruption and far outweighing the initial cost of preparedness. • Boston has what is called the green way through centre of town where a freeway used to divide the city. The road was put underground and now a 1.5 mile park and open space. BRA heavily involved in project, across change in governments.

	<p>District Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fully funded position, half from BRA, on district energy. Identifies and implements pilot district projects. • dedicated project manager for above 50,000 square feet. • Energy mapping of geographical areas and load maps identifying opportunities for district energy. <p>Greenovate Boston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenovate Boston launched 1.5 years ago. Push and pull between a brand and a program to encourage community driven movement towards achieving the city's sustainability goals. • Working to deliver Council's sustainability programs with consolidated messaging. • Train the trainer kit to deliver outreach on sustainability programs. • Friends of Greenovate piloting compost program with success.
<p>Thursday 13 November</p> <p>City of Boston: Cr Wood presentation on City of Melbourne's climate & sustainability programs</p> <p>City of Boston: Boston's open space planning & management</p> <p>City of Boston: Updating Boston-Melbourne MOU</p> <p>Luncheon at Sasaki: panelist, Jason Hellendrung, Sasaki Associates</p> <p>City of Boston: Role of real estate industry in climate actions – ABC initiative</p> <p>Mayors Roundtable</p> <p>Boston University Dinner</p>	<p>NOTES</p> <p>Boston – Melbourne MOU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to develop draft MOU renewing sister city relationship on 30th anniversary. Focus on mutual exchange in sustainability and clean technologies, promotion in research and development of energy efficiency, sustainability development and urban mobility, and collaboration on addressing common challenges related to climate change and carbon emissions reduction. • Boston now a C40 city. • Initiating masters student internship in 2015 through the Initiative on Cities Student Fellowship. • Boston international office to support travel and accommodation. • Connecting City of Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy work with City of Boston Parks and Gardens Unit. <p>ABC Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Better City – non-profit membership group, business and industry groups supporting economic drivers for city, sounding board for new policies and programs. • Transport planning and infrastructure, land management, sustainability initiatives. • Involved with the removal of raised road previously through the middle of Boston, reconfiguring of transport infrastructure and creation of open space. • \$15 billion clean-up of harbour.