

Lord Mayor Travel for COP Related Events

Tuesday, 9 September 2025
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Program Contact:
Office of the Lord Mayor

Public

Approving Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City
Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Lord Mayor to travel and attend lead up events to COP30.

COP stands for Conference of the Parties which is the main decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). COP takes place annually and is an opportunity to negotiate new measures, and review Parties' progress against the overall goal of the UNFCCC to limit climate change.

The Lord Mayor will represent the City of Adelaide at:

- New York Climate Week 2025, in New York City, USA, to be held 21-28 September 2025, and
- COP30 Local Leaders Forum and C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to be held 2-5 November 2025.

The Lord Mayor has received an invitation from the Co-Chairs of C40, Mayor Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London) and Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE (Mayor of Freetown), and Mayor Eduardo Paes (Mayor of Rio de Janeiro) (**Attachment A**) to attend the C40 World Mayors Summit to strengthen the collective voice of local governments in driving climate progress.

We have been advised that New York Climate Week is a critical event in the lead-up to COP30 where national and sub-national governments interact and lobby for positions that will be the subject of discourse at COP30 and future COPs.

Registration, travel and accommodation costs for the Lord Mayor's attendance at these events will be funded by the City of Adelaide.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the invitation to the Lord Mayor to attend the C40 World Mayors Summit as contained in Attachment A to Item 16.3 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 9 September 2025.
2. Notes that the cost of registration, travel and accommodation for attendance at Climate Week NYC 2025 and the COP30 Local Leaders Forum, including the C40 World Mayors Summit, will be funded by the City of Adelaide in accordance with Council Policy.
3. Approves the Lord Mayor's travel to New York City, USA, in September 2025, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November 2025, to represent the City of Adelaide and to advocate for Australia and Adelaide to host COP31 in 2026.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment Work with our partners to plan for, lead and educate our community on a climate resilient future.
Policy	Council Members Allowance and Benefits Policy (Link 1)
Consultation	Not as a result of this report.
Resource	Not as a result of this report.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report.
Opportunities	Through participation and engagement at these events, the Lord Mayor can promote the City of Adelaide as an ideal host for COP31, promote Council's climate action record and initiatives, and contribute to strengthening local government's voice on climate change policies.
25/26 Budget Allocation	The travel will be covered through the budget of the Office of the Lord Mayor. All travel and accommodation will be in accordance with Council Policy.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not applicable.
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not applicable.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report.
Other Funding Sources	Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

1. The Lord Mayor has received an invitation (**Attachment A**) from the Co-Chairs of C40, Mayor Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London) and Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE (Mayor of Freetown), and Mayor Eduardo Paes (Mayor of Rio de Janeiro) to attend the C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from Sunday 2 November to Wednesday 5 November 2025.
 - 1.1. The invitation was extended following the Brazilian Ambassador's recent visit to Adelaide where he met with the Lord Mayor on 28 August 2025.
 - 1.2. Brazil will be the holder of the COP Presidency as the host of COP30, from November 2025 until COP31.
2. The C40 World Mayors Summit is held every three years and in 2025 will bring together mayors, climate leaders, businesses, youth and academics to mark 20 years of city leadership in tackling the climate crisis and work to ensure that local leadership is influential as part of the UNFCCC COP30 negotiations.
 - 2.1. Other Australian Capital City Lord Mayor's will also be in attendance. The Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne and Councillor Jess Miller representing the Lord Mayor of Sydney will be at the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025.
3. Climate Week NYC 2025, to be held in New York City, USA, from Sunday 21 September to Sunday 28 September 2025, will bring together heads of government with leaders from business, the technology sector, academia and civil society.
 - 3.1. The Office of the Lord Mayor and Administration have been in discussions with the State Government through the Office of Minister Szakacs, Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Local Government, who will also be attending Climate Week NYC 2025.
 - 3.2. The Federal Government will also be in attendance and represented by Minister Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy.
4. The Lord Mayor's attendance at these events will provide the opportunity for the Lord Mayor to:
 - 4.1. Promote the City of Adelaide's actions and ambitions regarding Our Environment as outlined in the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028 ([Link 2](#)) and Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 ([Link 3](#)).
 - 4.2. Contribute to, and learn from, the event proceedings and interactions with other registrants and stakeholders, and support advocacy efforts to strengthen local government's voice on climate change policies and actions.
 - 4.3. Promote Australia and the City of Adelaide to be the host of COP31, to be held in November 2026.
5. Registration, travel and accommodation costs for the Lord Mayor's attendance at these events will be funded by the City of Adelaide in line with the City of Adelaide's Policy.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Council Members Allowances and Benefits Policy

Link 2 – City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Link 3 – Integrated Climate Strategy 2030

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Invitation for the Lord Mayor of Adelaide to attend the C40 Mayors Summit, 2-5 November 2025, Rio de Janeiro

- END OF REPORT -