

Participation in COP30 and associated lead up events

**Tuesday, 9 December 2025
Council**

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Program Contact:
Mick Petrovski, Senior Advisor –
Office of the Lord Mayor

Public

Approving Officer:
Michael Sedgman, Chief
Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 9, 2025, Council unanimously approved the Lord Mayor to travel and attend lead up events to COP30. The Lord Mayor travelled to New York City to participate in New York Climate Week events, coinciding with the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly from the 21st to 28th September 2025. The Lord Mayor also travelled to Brazil from the 31st October to 17th November to represent the City of Adelaide at the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio De Janeiro and the C40 World Mayor's Summit (3 to 5 November 2025) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 30 (COP30) in Belém (10 to 14 November 2025).

This report provides an overview of the Lord Mayor's activities, including key outcomes and likely future actions.

The Lord Mayor was invited to Brazil by C40 Cities as the elected representative of the likely host city for COP31. Bloomberg Philanthropies funded her travel and accommodation. The Lord Mayor's objectives were to:

- Promote Adelaide and South Australia's climate credentials as a renewable-energy and climate leader.
- Advocate for Australia's bid through the Federal Government to host COP31, with Adelaide ready to be a welcoming and well-organised host.
- Exchange ideas with global thought leaders, ministers, mayors and business leaders on climate mitigation, resilience, and multilevel governance.
- Play an active and high-profile role in global climate diplomacy at the subnational level (states, regions, local governments, municipalities and cities).

A summary of the visit to New York City is provided in the itinerary (Attachment A) and a summary of the visit to Brazil is provided in the itinerary (Attachment B).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the report, itinerary for the visit to New York as contained in Attachment A to Item 19.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.
2. Notes the report, itinerary for the visit to Brazil as contained in Attachment B to Item 19.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.
3. Notes that whilst in Brazil the Lord Mayor participated in 12 public speaking engagements, eight private roundtables, and 13 bilateral meetings at the COP30 Local Leaders Forum and UNFCCC COP30.
4. Notes that the Lord Mayor will continue to participate in global networks advocating for greater roles and funding to support subnational action on climate change.
5. Notes that the Lord Mayor will continue to advocate for a prominent role for Adelaide as part of the Australian Government's position as President of Negotiations and COP31 Vice-President.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment
Policy	Not as a result of this report
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	There are opportunities for the City of Adelaide to continue to work with and support the State and Federal Governments and to advocate for a role in the lead up to COP31 and associated climate related activities on the basis of Australia's role as President of Negotiations and COP31 Vice-President.
25/26 Budget Allocation	The Lord Mayor's flights and accommodation during travel in New York was paid by the City of Adelaide. The Lord Mayor's flights and the majority of her accommodation during travel in Brazil was funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The remainder was paid by the City of Adelaide.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. On September 9, 2025, Council voted unanimously to approve the Lord Mayor's travel and attendance at events in the lead up to COP30.
 - 1.1. The Lord Mayor travelled to New York City to participate in New York Climate Week events, coinciding with the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly from the 21st to 28th September 2025.
 - 1.2. The Lord Mayor also travelled to Brazil from the 31st October to 17th November to represent the City of Adelaide at the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio De Janeiro (3 to 5 November 2025) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 30 (COP30) in Belem (10 to 14 November 2025).
2. The Lord Mayor was invited to New York by C40 Cities as the elected representative of a candidate host city for COP31. Her travel and accommodation were funded by the City of Adelaide.
3. The Lord Mayor participated in three public speaking engagements, three private roundtables, and four bilateral meetings, as well as attending events and interacting with other leaders across New York Climate Week 2025.
4. A summary of the visit is provided in the itinerary (**Attachment A**).
5. The Lord Mayor was invited to Brazil by C40 Cities as the elected representative of a candidate host city for COP31. Her travel and accommodation were funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies through C40 Cities.
6. The Lord Mayor participated in 12 public speaking engagements, eight private roundtables, and 13 bilateral meetings at the COP30 Local Leaders Forum and UNFCCC COP30.
7. A summary of the visit is provided in the itinerary (**Attachment B**) and is accompanied by photos (**Attachment C**).

Context

8. The 2025 NYC Climate Week was hosted across New York City and included a series of speaking engagements and closed-door meetings with Minister Bowen, Ambassador Rudd, Pacific Island Ministers and industry leaders. It included events hosted in the United Nations, as well as by ICLEI, C40 and a range of affiliated interest groups.
9. The COP30 Local Leaders Forum (the Forum), hosted by the COP30 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, united mayors, governors, and subnational officials from around the world to showcase how local action is driving global climate progress.
10. The Forum also included the C40 Global Mayors summit, which brought together mayors from nearly 100 C40 cities, alongside business leaders, philanthropists, investors, academics, and civil society.
11. The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) was the annual United Nations Climate Change conference. They take place every year and are the world's only multi-lateral decision-making forum on climate change - bringing together almost every country on earth. They bring together all 'Parties' together to agree on the actions required to address the climate crisis, help vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and meet net-zero emissions by 2050.
12. The COP30 Local Leaders Forum was held in Rio de Janeiro, whilst the COP30 was held in Belém, Brazil.
13. The Western Europe and Other grouping is the host region for the 2026 COP31. Both Australia and Türkiye pursued a bid to host, with Australia pursuing hosting rights in partnership with the Pacific. Australia's bid had overwhelming support, with 26 out of 28 of the countries in the grouping publicly backing the bid. Under UNFCCC rules, the grouping must reach full consensus on a single nominee, if no consensus can be reached the location automatically defaults to Bonn, Germany – the home of the UNFCCC.
14. In order to avoid the COP defaulting to Bonn without a President, Australia withdrew its bid to host COP31. As a result, Türkiye will host COP31 and hold the COP31 Presidency, they will also nominate the UN High-Level Climate Champion and be responsible for the COP31 Action Agenda.
15. However, Australia remains a key player and will be appointed as President of Negotiations and COP31 Vice-President. Australia will also nominate the Youth Champion, to be appointed by Türkiye. In addition, the Pre-COP will be held in a Pacific Island country, in a location decided by the Pacific and supported by the Government of Australia.

Lord Mayor's activities and advocacy

16. At New York Climate Week the Lord Mayor engaged in various engagements across a broad range of themes and formats.

17. This visit was an important runway event to COP30 and provided an opportunity to enhance Adelaide and Australia's awareness of the annual program that leads up to COP each year, enhance Adelaide's global profile as a climate-forward city and highlight the work of the City and the leadership of South Australia across renewable energy and climate adaptation.
18. During her travel to Brazil, the Lord Mayor's visit strengthened Adelaide's international profile as a climate-forward city and highlighted South Australia's leadership in renewable energy and adaptation. Across a series of eight private roundtables, 12 public speaking engagements, and 13 bilateral meetings, the Lord Mayor:
 - 18.1. Promoted Adelaide and South Australia's climate credentials as a renewable-energy and climate leader.
 - 18.2. Advocated for Australia's bid to host COP31, with Adelaide ready to be a welcoming and well-organised host.
 - 18.3. Exchanged ideas with global thought leaders, ministers, mayors and business leaders on climate mitigation, resilience, and multilevel governance.
 - 18.4. Played an active and high-profile role in global climate diplomacy.
19. The Lord Mayor met and discussed climate goals and adaption measures, mostly on panels and speaking programmes as well as in bilateral meetings. Key people the Lord Mayor met include:
 - 19.1. Al Gore, former Vice-President of the USA
 - 19.2. Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
 - 19.3. Mayor Anne Hidalgo, City of Paris
 - 19.4. Dr Andrew Forrest AO, CEO Fortescue Metals & Founder, Minderoo Foundation
 - 19.5. Andy Deacon, Co-Managing Director Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate Change and Energy
 - 19.6. Dan Ioschpe, COP30 High-Level Champion
 - 19.7. Gina McCarthy, Former EPA Administrator & former US National Climate Advisor
 - 19.8. Mayor Haris Doukas, City of Athens
 - 19.9. Hon. Josh Wilson, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy
 - 19.10. Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, City of Malmö
 - 19.11. Mayor Kirk Preston Watson, City of Austin
 - 19.12. Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40 Cities
 - 19.13. Mayor Regina Romero, City of Tucson, Arizona
 - 19.14. Mayor Sadiq Khan, Greater London Authority
 - 19.15. Mayor Steve Patterson, City of Athens, Ohio
 - 19.16. Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council
 - 19.17. Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, European Commission
 - 19.18. Max Thomas Young, UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador
20. For a full list of activities in Brazil see Attachment B.
21. The Lord Mayor was a vocal and high-profile advocate for Adelaide as the host city for COP31. Although Australia was ultimately unsuccessful in its bid to host COP31, any effort to attract large conferences and events to Adelaide is not wasted effort.

Outcomes

22. Key results of the Lord Mayor's travel include:
 - 22.1. Strengthened Adelaide's global reputation as a leader in climate implementation, resilience and multilevel governance.
 - 22.2. Solidified relationships with the Commonwealth Government, positioning Adelaide as credible partner in future activities associated with Australia's role as COP31 Vice-President and in future Australian COP delegations.

- 22.3. Enhanced relationships with major international institutions including UNFCCC, UN-Habitat, C40, ICLEI, OECD and philanthropic networks.
- 22.4. Positioned Adelaide as a credible partner for pilot programs, climate initiatives and international collaborations.
- 22.5. Expanded partnerships across topics as diverse as heat resilience, water security, energy efficiency, climate data, and information integrity.
- 23. The strategic outcomes of the Lord Mayor's travel can be summarised across three main areas.
 - 23.1. **Showed Adelaide to be a trusted and reliable partner of the Commonwealth Government, positioning the city for a key role in activities related to Australia's role as Vice-President of COP31.** The LM's participation in CHAMP dialogues and UN hosted events demonstrated the role of cities in delivering national climate commitments and highlighted Adelaide's history in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Implications:

 - 23.1.1. Position Adelaide as a potential partner in activities related to Australia's role as Vice-President of COP31
 - 23.1.2. Create opportunities for deeper Commonwealth - city collaboration on resilience, data, adaptation and urban transformation.
 - 23.1.3. Strengthen Adelaide's case to the Australian Government that local government involvement is essential in climate mitigation and adaptation, and delivering commitments made in Australia's Nationally Determined contributions (NDCs).
 - 23.2. **Stronger relationships with global institutions to unlock new partnerships and funding pathways.** Meetings with UN-Habitat, the European Commission, UNFCCC, the OECD, C40, and Bloomberg Philanthropies strengthened Adelaide's international network.

Implications:

 - 23.2.1. Adelaide is now on the radar for pilot programs, global city accelerators, research partnerships and demonstration projects.
 - 23.2.2. There is opportunity to attract funding linked to a range of climate action initiatives.
 - 23.2.3. These relationships bolster Adelaide's credibility as a future host of global climate summits and investment site for green finance initiatives
 - 23.3. **Adelaide's reputation as a practical, implementation-focused climate city has significantly grown.** Speaking roles across sessions on heat risk, water resilience, climate data, energy efficiency, education, and health demonstrated the breadth of Adelaide's climate leadership

Implications:

 - 23.3.1. Adelaide is seen not only as a "renewables success story", but as a climate leader across adaptation, resilience, governance, and community engagement.
 - 23.3.2. This reputation enhances Adelaide's attractiveness to investors, researchers, philanthropies, and global city networks
 - 23.3.3. It provides a platform for Adelaide to lead national discourse on urban climate implementation.
- 24. Overall, the Lord Mayor's travel delivered strong strategic value for Adelaide and South Australia. The visits deepened relationships with key global institutions, strengthened collaboration with national partners, and reinforced Adelaide's reputation as a leading city in practical climate implementation, resilience and multilevel governance.
- 25. The Lord Mayor was also able to execute a Memorandum of Understanding that had been drafted through 2025, with Mayor Haris Doukas, City of Athens who was also attending the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio De Janeiro.

Next Steps

- 26. The program of international meetings attended through 2025 progressed existing connections that the City of Adelaide has with a range of cities globally in alignment with work and objectives across the Integrated Climate Strategy, our Sister Cities Program and other City of Adelaide strategic commitments.

27. These meetings also fulfilled obligations and support roles for a number of organisations including the Australian Government and the Government of South Australia and various internationally bodies that represent Cities and Local Governments, validated and underpinned by their funding support for these trips.
 28. The Lord Mayor will continue to participate in global networks that align with objectives of the City of Adelaide for economic and climate and environmental development, advocating for greater roles and funding to support subnational action on climate change and advance Adelaide as a place for business, conferences and major events.
 29. Whilst the Federal Government took the decision (through the UNFCCC's consensus process to decide hosts for COP) to withdraw as host for COP31, Adelaide's presence in the runway events through New York, Rio de Janeiro and Belém positioned Adelaide as an influential contributor and a credible partner in Australia's role as President of Negotiations for COP31 and beyond.
 30. The Lord Mayor will continue to lobby for a prominent role in Australia's activities as President of Negotiations and COP31 Vice-President, including hosting international conferences, and attracting green finance to the state.
-

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Lord Mayor Itinerary for New York City

Attachment B – Lord Mayor Itinerary for Brazil

- END OF REPORT -