

Elected Member Travel for Pre-COP31

Tuesday, 22 September 2026
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Program Contact:
Office of the Lord Mayor

Public

Approving Officer:
Michael Sedgman, Chief
Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Councillor Mark Siebentritt to travel and attend the Pre-COP31 Stakeholder Engagement Program, 'Vale vi Vanua Knowledge Exchange in Fiji.

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 Pre-COP31 Stakeholder Program runs from 5–8 October 2026 in Nadi, Fiji and includes panels, workshops, roundtables, networking and keynote sessions. The knowledge exchange is designed to bring practical climate knowledge, Pacific perspectives and stakeholder ideas into the discussions leading up to COP31. The program will focus on Pacific climate challenges and solutions, with the aim of informing global climate discussions.

Councillor Siebentritt is able to provide a direct strategic benefit to the city given the alignment between focus on the Program's climate change, resilience and Pacific knowledge and his professional experience in climate adaptation and sustainability.

The travel and accommodation costs for Councillor Siebentritt's attendance at the event will be funded by the City of Adelaide. There is no cost for the registration of the event.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes that the cost of travel and accommodation associated with Councillor Siebentritt's attendance at the Pacific Pre-COP event in October 2026 will be funded by the City of Adelaide in accordance with Council Policy.
2. Approves Council Siebentritt's travel to Fiji in October 2026 to represent the City of Adelaide at the Pacific Pre-COP event.
3. Notes that, following the Pacific Pre-COP event, Councillor Siebentritt will provide a report to Council outlining key learnings, relevant stakeholder engagements and opportunities for the City of Adelaide arising from his attendance.

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	Strengthen relationships with Pacific and international climate leaders, while gaining practical insights into climate adaptation, resilience and community led approaches. Knowledge sharing and initiatives that could inform future Council policy and planning.
26/27 Budget Allocation	The cost for this travel is in the range of \$3,500 to \$4,200, being subject to final flight and accommodation requirements. 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 27/28 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not applicable.
26/27 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. Pre-COP31 Stakeholder Engagement Program

- 1.1. The Pre-COP31 Stakeholder Engagement Program, *Vale ni Vanua – Knowledge Exchange*, provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage on climate change, resilience and Pacific-led approaches ahead of COP31.
- 1.2. The program brings together government, local government, community, First Nations, academic, industry and civil society representatives to exchange knowledge and identify opportunities for collaboration.

2. Relevance to the City of Adelaide

- 2.1. Attendance is directly relevant to 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](#)).
- 2.2. The Lord Mayor's attendance in Rio de Janeiro in November 2025 to advocate for Adelaide to host COP31 demonstrated the City's commitment to climate leadership and the role of cities in local climate action.
- 2.3. The City of Adelaide has played a leadership role in managing initiatives for dealing with climate change that have influenced beyond South Australia, recognising that climate change requires action and cooperation across borders. COP31 provides an opportunity to support Pacific nations, many of which face high risks from climate change and rising sea levels, to strengthen Adelaide's links with the Pacific region, and to show consistency of our ongoing commitment to tackling climate change.
- 2.4. Councillor Siebentritt's professional experience in climate adaptation, risk assessment and sustainability provides a relevant basis for participation and contribution to the program.
 - 2.4.1. The program provides an opportunity to gain insights into practical approaches to climate adaptation, resilience, urban environments and community-led responses.
 - 2.4.2. It also provides an opportunity to share Adelaide's experience and perspectives and strengthen relationships with Pacific and international stakeholders.

3. Opportunities arising from attendance

- 3.1. Attendance provides opportunities to develop relationships with governments, cities, researchers and other organisations working on climate resilience and sustainable development.
- 3.2. These relationships may support future knowledge exchange, collaboration and identification of initiatives relevant to Adelaide's climate and sustainability priorities.

4. Outcomes for the City of Adelaide

- 4.1. Knowledge and insights gained through participation can inform Council's ongoing consideration of climate adaptation, resilience and sustainability initiatives.
- 4.2. Attendance also provides an opportunity to raise the profile of Adelaide as a city engaged in practical climate action and regional cooperation.
- 4.3. Following attendance, relevant outcomes and opportunities can be reported to Council. This may include key learnings, stakeholder relationships established and opportunities for future collaboration. Any identified initiatives or policy considerations relevant to the City can be considered through the appropriate Council processes.

5. Conclusion

Attendance provides a relevant opportunity for the City of Adelaide to participate in an international climate knowledge exchange, strengthen regional relationships and bring practical insights back to Adelaide to support its ongoing climate resilience and sustainability objectives.

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

Nil

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