

**Report to the Future Melbourne Committee****Agenda item 7.2****Post travel report by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, COP28, Dubai, Dec 2023****6 February 2024****Presenter:** Lord Mayor Sally Capp**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) with information on the travel undertaken by Lord Mayor Sally Capp to Dubai to participate and present at the 2023 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) for the period of 30 November to 6 December 2023.
2. COP28 President, Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, and UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition, Michael Bloomberg, invited the Lord Mayor and other representatives from City of Melbourne (CoM), to attend COP28 and participate in the Local Action Summit. This is the first time CoM has been formally represented at a COP meeting.
3. The Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) was the first-of-its-kind gathering to take place at COP in the UN Blue Zone with member states. This is in recognition of the critical role Mayors and local leaders play in reducing global emissions, addressing climate risk, and significantly contributing to national efforts to progress climate action.
4. Hosted by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the LCAS Summit brought together hundreds of national and subnational climate leaders with the aim of transforming climate finance, enhancing global action, fast-tracking the energy transition, and strengthening resilience and adaptation at the local level.

**Key issues**

5. CoM representation at COP28 contributed to global negotiations that secured greater support for delivery of city climate projects. Representation also allowed for the building of new and enhancing existing connections and an opportunity to share CoM initiatives with global leaders while fostering its innovation capacity to accelerate the implementation of local climate initiatives. CoM participation featured in the following key activities:
  - 5.1. Advocating for finance instruments to enable cities to access an estimated \$2.4 billion globally for climate action projects;
  - 5.2. Meetings with companies that can progress commercial opportunities in support of climate resilience in Melbourne, including for example water and greening technology providers;
  - 5.3. Showcasing of CoM's leadership in climate, presenting at the Local Climate Action Summit;
  - 5.4. Promotion of CoM's ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation targets and initiatives including Power Melbourne, Retrofit Melbourne and creating a Heat Safe City;
  - 5.5. Connections with philanthropic funders to explore opportunities for project funding for city climate finance and for Melbourne, including Bezos Earth Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Mindaroo Foundation;
  - 5.6. Engagement with Australian Federal Government senior representatives involved in Australia's formal negotiations and its bid to host COP 31;
  - 5.7. Meetings with Mayors to learn and exchange ideas about successful projects in their cities as well as future opportunities to collaborate; and
  - 5.8. Extended relationships in key global networks such as C40 and the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University.

6. As a result of these activities, CoM is better positioned to advance existing projects, access finance, has better understanding of projects that could be implemented in the CoM and has an improved profile to support financing, advocacy and support for projects into the future.
7. The key commitments, observations and opportunities associated with participation at COP28 are further outlined in Attachment 2.
8. The Lord Mayor's participation at COP28 was primarily funded by the C40 Cities Leadership Group with CoM covering a portion of the airfare.

### **Recommendation**

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee notes the report on the Lord Mayor's participation at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) and associated meetings between 30 November to 6 December 2024 at an estimated cost to Council of \$2128.

### **Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 6)
2. Overview key commitments, observations and opportunities (Page 4 of 6)

## **Supporting Attachment**

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### **Finance**

1. The costs associated with the Lord Mayor's travel were jointly met by the C40 Cities Leadership Group (C40) and CoM.
2. Once final reconciliation processes (which involves C40) are complete, a final and confirmed figure will be included in the travel register published on CoM's website. The final cost may vary from the figure included in this report and this may primarily be due to fluctuations in currency exchange.

### **Conflict of interest**

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a general or material conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### **Relation to Council policy**

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

### **Environmental sustainability**

6. Carbon emissions resulting from air travel to Dubai were neutralised with the purchase of carbon offsets.

## United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), Dubai, December 2023

### Overview of key commitments, observations and opportunities

#### 1. Summary of CoM meetings, engagements and presentations and associated outcomes

Activity	Outcomes
<b>Global Climate Network Meetings</b>	
<p><b>C40 and Bloomberg Philanthropies Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) convened more than 250 mayors:</b> The Lord Mayor presented at LCAS, showcasing Melbourne climate leadership and supported C40 efforts to make the case for city action to be formally recognised as nationally determined contributions.</p>	<p>The Local Climate Action Summit raised \$467 million for urban climate action.</p> <p>Details are still being finalised, but these funds could be accessed for future CoM projects.</p>
<p><b>City Champions for Heat Action with the Adrienne Arsht Rockefeller Resilience Centre:</b> The Lord Mayor participated in panel discussions along-side Senator Hillary Clinton and Global Chief Heat Officer Eleni Myrivili on the critical importance of funding cities to address urban extreme heat.</p>	<p>The participants agreed to develop a global advocacy strategy in support of financing for cities to address extreme heat.</p> <p>Our current approach was endorsed, which includes the testing of new ideas for helping our community manage extreme heat.</p>
<p><b>Urban SDG Finance Commissioners:</b> The Lord Mayor met with the group for the first time at COP28, and heard about plans to facilitate funding for the SDGs through changes to the global financial system.</p>	<p>This work seeks to benefit CoM in the future as we advance our work with the SDGs.</p>
Activity	Outcomes
<b>Bilateral Meetings</b>	
<p><b>Jakarta:</b> Jakarta proposed a sister city relationship, Melbourne indicated that we would like to work on joint projects.</p>	<p>CoM agreed to continue the conversation on SDGs and water related topics.</p>
<p><b>Bangkok:</b> Bangkok updated CoM on their trial of permeable paving after their visit to Melbourne in April 23.</p>	<p>Commitment to continue to share information on heat and flooding.</p>
<p><b>Denmark:</b> Detailed discussion on climate budgeting approach.</p>	<p>Have since held a follow up meeting to understand detail of financial model, implementation and opportunity for replication.</p>
<p><b>Dhaka North:</b> Meetings to exchange information on local approaches, issues and opportunities for strengthening regional support. Specific detail shared on heat action and Chief Heat Officer network through Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Resilience Centre.</p>	<p>Commitment to introducing Dhaka North officials to representatives from Monash University.</p>

Activity	Outcomes
<b>Financial sector meetings</b>	
<p>Met with the following funding organisations and explored opportunities to provide grants, subsidies or investment into Melbourne’s climate resilience projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asia Development Bank President</li> <li>• Bezos Earth Fund</li> <li>• Bloomberg Philanthropies</li> <li>• Mindaroo Foundation</li> </ul>	<p>Introduced Melbourne, our climate challenges and credentials.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing for possible funding of local projects such as Power Melbourne and Retrofit Melbourne.</p> <p>CoM also explored a structure of a possible carbon credit scheme, which would recognise the benefit of tree planting in CoM to fund future tree planting programs.</p>
Activity	Outcomes
<b>Other presentations and media engagements</b>	
<p>Speeches and media engagements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel Session on Extreme Heat in Cities</li> <li>• Reasons for optimism: cities’ action on climate and health</li> <li>• Panel Session on Extreme Heat and Gender with Sec. Hillary Clinton</li> <li>• Jiangsu Assembly and Roundtable</li> <li>• Panel session on Just Energy Transition – Monash University</li> <li>• Collaborative strategies and plans for net zero transport and infrastructure</li> <li>• Net Zero Nature Positive Built Environment</li> </ul>	<p>Showcased Melbourne’s climate credentials, building our reputation as a global city and a place to invest in innovative climate focused projects to; attract funding, expertise, and interest and support for advocacy efforts into the future.</p> <p>Projects such as Power Melbourne and CoM’s policies on extreme heat were showcased.</p>

## 2. Key outcomes and opportunities arising from COP28

- 2.1 The resolution of COP28 was a formal acknowledgement of the **need to transition away from fossil fuels**. The COP28 Presidency hailed it as a “paradigm shift that has the ability to redefine our economies.”
- 2.2 Of particular note for CoM is the strongest language ever achieved on the recognition of the central role of city governments and multilevel action in driving global climate progress. This comes after a strong mayoral presence and demonstration of influence in the delivery of more ambitious climate action. It was acknowledged that the actions that are needed to drive down fossil fuel demand require multilevel action and the crucial role of local government in the transition to renewable energy and in building more resilient and equitable communities.
- 2.3 Other notable outcomes include:
- 2.3.1 World leaders are sharply focused on the transformative power of multi-level partnerships and the importance of scaling up urban climate financing as a key step to meet the Paris Agreement goals. In a key achievement for cities, 71 (and counting) national governments have endorsed the CHAMP (Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) initiative, committing to integrate subnationals into their national-level climate planning and financing for the next round of NDCs due in 2025. This should drive more support and funding for city initiatives.

- 2.3.2 Cities made progress in raising awareness of the unique urban dimension of Loss and Damage, and the pressing need for frontline cities to be able to directly access fit-for-purpose finance to respond to climate impacts. In positive progress, the **Loss and Damage fund**, agreed at the start of COP, contains a reference to direct access for subnationals.
- 2.3.3 Many commentators have noted that the agreement comes up short in outlining clear language around fossil fuel phase-out within a clear timeframe as the only way to stay on track for 1.5°C of warming.
- 2.4 Significant financial pledges in climate were made at COP28. This included:
  - 2.4.1 The Local Climate Action Summit raised \$467 million for urban climate action, and welcomed more than 250 mayors
  - 2.4.2 London's financial centre committed to net zero by 2050
  - 2.4.3 Specific climate finance commitments eg Alterra Climate Fund (\$30 billion from United Arab Emirates to leverage \$250 billion private capital by 2030), World Bank \$9 billion annually.
  - 2.4.4 \$700 million to support lower income countries cope with loss and damage caused by climate change
- 2.5 Many countries and entities committed to supporting cities to finance climate work, for example:
  - 2.5.1 Olympus Manthata, Development Bank Southern Africa, is [scaling financing for water projects](#) from project preparation and capacity building to delivery.
  - 2.5.2 ICLEI is piloting [financing through the insurance sector](#) in Latin America to reduce climate risk
  - 2.5.3 Denmark finance ministry has implemented [a green reform model](#) that measures the impact of policy. It reported that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) alone, and the Oslo Climate budgeting models had not worked for them so had created a modular system focused on social impacts.
  - 2.5.4 Samsi Gunarta, the Provincial Government of Bali, Indonesia, has created a subnational [climate finance hub](#).
  - 2.5.5 The World Bank has created an [Urban Nature Program](#) with support for 15 cities (including in Colombia, Brazil and South Africa) from policy development to investment.
  - 2.5.6 Portugal City financing model and Lisbon's community led climate fund - [Lisbon's City Finance Lab-backed green participatory budget awarded €5 million \(climate-kic.org\)](#)
  - 2.5.7 The German led LUCI subnational climate finance program - [Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance](#)
- 2.6 The Australian Government committed to the following:
  - 2.6.1 [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action \(CHAMP\)](#) to include cities and regions in the design of federal climate commitments and strategies.
  - 2.6.2 [COP28: Global Renewables And Energy Efficiency Pledge](#) to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency by 2030 and to put the principle of energy efficiency as the "first fuel" at the core of policymaking, planning, and major investment decisions.
  - 2.6.3 [Coalition of Finance Ministers \(financeministersforclimate.org\)](#)