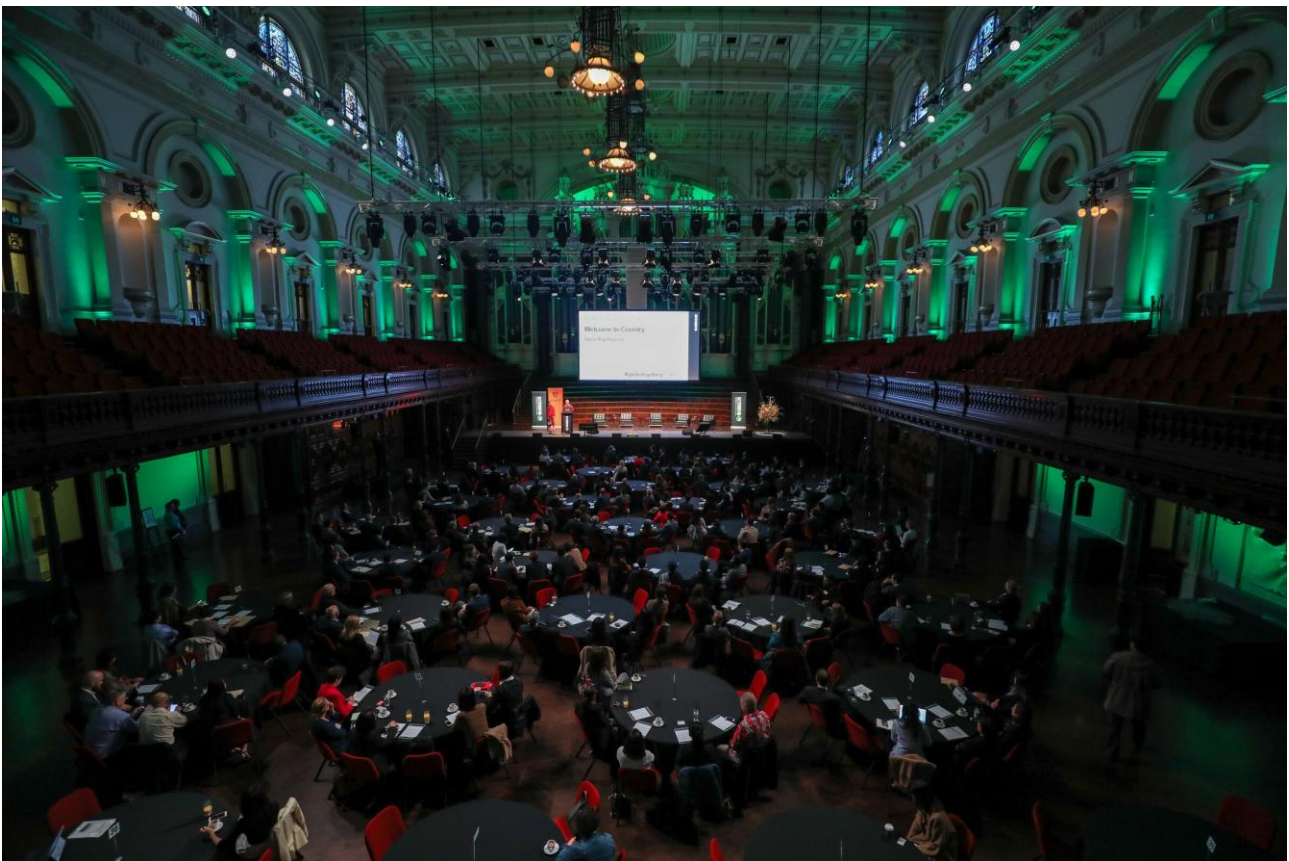


Attachment A

**Report on International Travel –
C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 –
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Report on International Travel - C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Contents

Summary

Recommendation

Attachments

Bilateral meetings and other events attended.

Summary

C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Summary

On 25 August 2025, Council endorsed the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Jess Miller in representing the Lord Mayor and the City of Sydney at the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 from 3 to 5 November 2025 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and noted that Councillor Miller would provide a report back to Council.

The C40 World Mayors Summit is convened every 3 years by the C40 Cities which is a network of 97 cities representing 920 million people and 23% of the world's economy. To date, as a member of C40 the City has participated in three C40 World Mayors Summits – Mexico City in 2016, Copenhagen in 2019 and Rio de Janeiro in 2025.

The Summit provides a unique opportunity for city leaders across the world to exchange ideas, successes and learnings and is valuable to inform the delivery of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and the Environmental Strategy 2025-2030.

During the Summit, nearly 3,000 mayors, governors, and subnational leaders from over 120 countries participated in over 60 sessions showcasing how cities are demonstrating decisive leadership in tackling the climate crisis. Others in attendance included Mayoral advisors, businesses and philanthropic funders bridging a range of sectors. This year's Summit also included satellite events on 2 and 6 November 2025 and kicked off the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Belem, co-hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the COP30 Presidency.

At the opening plenary session '*Cities Delivering Global Leadership for Climate Action*' summit co-convenors - Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, and Sir Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London along with Mayor Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown and Co-Chair of C40, announced that C40 cities are bringing per capita emissions down five times faster than the global average and launched a campaign showcasing scalable city-led solutions.

The key message for the Summit was advocating that the COP30 moves "from negotiation to implementation" and that city-scale action on climate change matters because cities are where most people live and where most impact can be made. Currently, cities occupy 2% of landmass, consume 75% of global energy, create over 70% of GHG emissions and account for 80% of GDP.

Key Insights

The key message for the Summit was advocating that the COP30 moves "from negotiation to implementation" and that city-scale action on climate change matters because cities are where most people live and where most impact can be made. Currently, cities occupy 2% of landmass, consume 75% of global energy, create over 70% of GHG emissions and account for 80% of GDP.

In their message to national governments, local leaders outlined three strategic asks designed to accelerate global progress during "the decisive decade" for climate action:

1. Partner with cities to deliver national climate goals
2. Mobilise climate finance for city projects
3. Make COP a process of implementation and accountability.

The Deputy Lord Mayor spoke at the *Joint ESEAO-SWA Mayors Regional Convening* sharing learnings from Urban Heat Plan and collaborative approach with Resilient Sydney.

This included outlining the challenges Sydney faces with urban heat and the tension that exists between the need to rapidly expand housing supply in a way that protects current and future residents from the worst impacts of urban heat and the need to retain and expand current green space to overcome urban heat island effect. This session also covered the collaboration across the 33 councils within our region on the *Greater Sydney Heat Smart City Plan* and the *Greater Sydney Heat Taskforce*. These insights were also shared at:

- Urban Air Revolution Lab event hosted by the Earthshot Prize - contributing to discussions about approaches to urban heat and air quality, and
- The Local Leaders Summit – Climate & Health Nexus *From Heatwaves to Health Equity: Cities Taking Preventative Action*, hosted by Resilient Cities Network, which explored the nexus between climate, human health, and place.

These events emphasised that whilst the City is focused on the impacts associated with heat and humidity, we should not underestimate the major threat posed by water, with 90% of climate impacts involving water, flooding and sea level rise, as well as the increasing threat of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue.

Three meetings of Australian Cities were convened to discuss the City of Adelaide's bid to host COP31. All cities in attendance expressed support for Adelaide's bid, discussed advocacy opportunities and the role the other major cities could play. Meetings included representatives from Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, C40 and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

The City of Sydney supported the City of Melbourne's effort to highlight the energy and water intensive nature of data centres in cities which are projected to use 20% of the grid's power by 2040 undermining climate action if they are not run on renewables. A joint statement by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Nick Reece and Mayor of Phoenix, Kate Gallego called for mayors to have a say in where these data centres are built and operated, securing renewable energy and recycled water. Other supportive cities include Athens, Barcelona, Dubai, Hobart, Johannesburg, Milan, Paris, Phoenix, and Portland.

After the summit, the Deputy Lord Mayor with representatives from the Resilient Cities Catalyst visited the Rio de Janeiro Emergency Operations Control Centre which constantly monitors data from hundreds of cameras and sensors spread throughout the city. The data informs a risk assessment broadcast 24/7 to the City of Rio, State and Federal Government, emergency services the military and communications attaché. Co-locating representatives of services, decision-makers and their communications teams, enables quick and coordinated decision-making about what to do in an emergency.

Attachment

Bi-lateral meetings and events attended

During the Summit additional bi-lateral meetings were held with:

- The Deputy Mayor of Seattle to discuss policy building decarbonisation and waste.
- The Mayor of the City of Tucson and Arizona's Chief Resilience Officer to discuss heat and housing.
- The Vice Governor of Tokyo to discuss blue and green initiatives and corridors, drainage and flooding - Tokyo has invested in series of subterranean canals.
- The Centre for Liveable Cities (Singapore) to discuss Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize and the World Cities Summit.
- Representatives from Climate Works Centre to discuss current and future city challenges
- American and Australia Mayors including Gina McCarthy, Lord Mayor Jane Lomax-Smith, Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Mayor Patterson (Athens), Mayor Romero (Tucson, Arizona) & Mayor Gallego (Phoenix, Arizona)
- Representatives from the Resilient Cities Network to discuss connections between climate, human health and place.
- SXSW London CEO Max Alexander
- Audrey Timm, Technical Initiatives Manager at the International Association of Horticultural Producers (UK)

Events attended included:

- The launch of a new solar farm on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro hosted by mayor Eduardo Paes
- The launch of London joining the *Swimmable Cities Network* at Copacabana Beach
- Open Plenary - *Cities Delivering Global Leadership on Climate Action*
- Sessions including:
 - *Urban Water Resilience: adapting to a changing climate*
 - *Climate and Health: creating green and thriving neighbourhoods*
 - *Urban Planning: the key to liveable cities*
 - *Climate Investment: unlocking finance*
 - *COP30: Local Climate Action Summit*
- Local Leaders Summit, the health and climate nexus with Resilient Cities at the Rio de Janeiro Operations Centre
- Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy briefing with Andy Deacon & C40 Director Mark Watts

