

External Memberships

File No: S076031

Summary

The City of Sydney is a member of a wide range of associations and organisations which provide staff and Councillors with access to up-to-date information and information-sharing opportunities, forums and conferences for professional and policy development.

The memberships held by the City of Sydney are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant to the work of the City and are provided to Council for their information. The City's current memberships are outlined in Attachment A.

The total cost of these memberships is estimated to be \$996,995 for the current financial year and provisions have been provided for in the 2024/25 budget.

In accordance with the Register of Delegations from Council to the Chief Executive Officer dated 22 August 2022, new memberships of a value less than \$10,000 excluding GST can be approved by the Chief Executive Officer. New memberships worth over \$10,000 are brought to Council for consideration.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the existing memberships as outlined in Attachment A. The City's memberships will continue to be reviewed and any significant changes reported to Council.

This report also seeks Council approval for the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to accept hosting up to three roundtables/forums/events per year at City of Sydney venues.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council receive and note the City's membership of the associations outlined in Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note that final membership amounts change from time to time and any significant changes will be reported back to Council via the CEO Update; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to accept hosting up to three roundtables/forums/events per year at City of Sydney venues and to waive costs associated with hosting these events.

Attachments

Attachment A. List of Existing Memberships

Background

1. The City of Sydney is a member of a range of associations which provide access to professional support, updated industry information and information sharing, forums and conferences for professional and policy development and accreditation.
2. Memberships cover a wide range of associations to reflect the breadth of City activities.
3. The City contributes to and works with these groups to achieve our goals.
4. The total cost of these memberships is estimated to be \$996,995 for the current financial year.
5. These memberships were included in the budget for 2024/25.
6. The top three memberships account for \$317,343 and includes the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM), Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC).
7. The other smaller memberships make up the remaining \$679,652.

Events

8. From time to time, some of these organisations request that the City of Sydney host roundtable/forums/events at City of Sydney venues.
9. It is recommended that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Lord Mayor to accept hosting up to three roundtables/forums/events per year at City of Sydney venues and to waive costs associated with hosting these events.
10. Only venues owned and managed by the City will be used, therefore there will be no cost to Council for venue hire. The City will absorb costs associated with equipment hire, staffing and catering that may be required at these events. .
11. All Councillors will be invited to any events hosted by the City under these arrangements.
12. Any support/costs will be documented and provided to Council as part of the quarterly review supplementary reports.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

13. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - Responsible governance and stewardship - external memberships provide staff and Councillors with access to up-to-date information and information-sharing opportunities, forums and conferences for professional and policy development.

Financial Implications

14. The existing cost of these memberships is estimated to be \$996,995 for the current financial year which has been provided for in the 2024/25 operating budget.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Erin Cashman, Manager OCEO

Attachment A

List of Existing Memberships

Chief Executive Office

Sustainable Business Australia	Participation in the SBA Sustainability Professionals Group and ability for the City to directly engage with industries focussed on developing the green economy and sustainable business practices.	\$10,000
Local Government NSW	The City's involvement is necessary to lead the policy and strategic direction of local government in NSW.	\$121,375
The Committee for Sydney	Provides access to forums with peak industry, governmental and community leaders promoting sustainability.	\$19,750
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW	Works closely with communities to ensure a sustainable future. Membership provides access to programs and opportunities to work closely together to achieve that sustainable future.	\$1,352
Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM)	Collaborative national level advocacy forum. Involves policy development, sharing information and practices across capital cities.	\$116,000
Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC)	Collaboration with neighbouring councils on issues such as procurement, industry best practice and advocacy.	\$79,968

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) - Local Governments for Sustainability	Brings the latest global solutions and knowledge to the local context, with members and teams of experts working together to create systemic change for urban sustainability.	\$4,530
Sydney First - NSW Business Chamber Limited	An important resource as a support group and solutions provider for business.	\$20,000
Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA)	Provides access to policy discussions and thought leadership on critical issues facing Australia and Sydney particularly.	\$10,700
Tourism Transport Forum	Peak national tourism body. Advocates the public policy interests of corporations and institutions on tourism, transport, aviation and investment.	\$28,875
LGiU Australia	A partnership between non-profit think tank and information service provider LGiU and Australian urban and public policy consultancy and certified B Corp SGS Economics and Planning.	\$6,000

Chief Financial Office

Supply Nation	Dedicated to connecting corporate and government organisations with Indigenous enterprises, which helps the City deliver on our commitment to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the development of staff and our policies and procedures.	\$8,000
Finance Leadership Council for Midsized Companies Classic - Gartner Australasia Pty Ltd	The leading member-based advisory company. Combines the best practices of thousands of member companies with advanced research methodologies and human capital analytics, it equips senior leaders and their teams with insight and actionable solutions to transform operations.	\$36,300
Procurement and Supply Australasia (PASA) Connect	A networking, learning and development initiative that brings procurement professionals together for both peer-to-peer and expert-led learning.	\$9,950
NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce	Dedicated to connecting corporate and government organisations with Indigenous enterprises, which helps the City deliver on our commitment to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the development of staff and our policies and procedures.	\$27,500

Chief Operating Office

Bondi to Manly Walk Supporters	A not-for-profit incorporated association established with the mission of protecting, enhancing and promoting the public land and natural environment on Sydney Harbour Foreshore along the Bondi to Manly Walk which runs through the City of Sydney local government area.	\$5,000
Property Council of Australia	Enables City representation as a member, recognition within the industry, access to research papers, discounts on courses and member training.	\$13,010
Australian Water Association	The Australian Water Association provides information and knowledge, connects members with industry and stakeholders to drive a sustainable water future.	\$1,500

City Life

<p>Australian Library and Information Association</p>	<p>Access to advocacy on behalf of all public libraries in Australia, an annual conference and library specific training. Members receive discounted prices to attend. Membership also provides quarterly newsletter, professional articles and research papers.</p>	<p>\$1,495</p>
<p>The Children's Book Council of Australia</p>	<p>Exclusive access to a range of resources related to children's literature, including discounts on CBCA Book Week merchandise.</p>	<p>\$130</p>
<p>Community Early Learning Australia Ltd</p>	<p>Supports evidence-based research, consultation, and action, uniting childcare services.</p>	<p>\$340</p>
<p>Early Childhood Australia Inc</p>	<p>Provides resources and up to date information on the early childhood education and care industry. Provides reduced rates for conferences and training opportunities.</p>	<p>\$566</p>
<p>History Council of NSW Inc</p>	<p>Enables representation on the peak body for history; participation in History Week; networking, and resources.</p>	<p>\$590</p>
<p>National Disability Services</p>	<p>Peak body for non-government disability service organisations. Provides information to the City about disability services and needs.</p>	<p>\$265</p>

Network of Community Activities	Provides support and resources to outside school hours care services in NSW. Provides reduced rates for conferences and training opportunities.	\$1,210
New South Wales Public Libraries Association	Membership provides access to professional training workshops and seminars; services such as library reviews, facilitation of strategic planning, children's, multicultural and reference services and promotion, access to professional publications, NSW public libraries statistics, and a forum for all library professionals.	\$2,880
NSW Meals on Wheels Association Inc	This is the peak professional body, gives access to information, training, and conferences.	\$1,953
NSW Resource Description and Discovery Network	Package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata.	\$45
Oral History NSW Inc.	Provides regular newsletter & journal; networking, professional development & learning opportunities; member rates for conferences.	\$59
Refugee Council of Australia (Refugee Welcome Zone Leadership Group)	Promotes, supports and advocates for policy reform for refugees and people seeking asylum and enables the City to share our knowledge and experience in supporting refugees, as well as learn from others.	\$5,000

Zero Barriers	Promotes access and inclusion for member Council's by visiting businesses in that Local Government Area and providing practical advice to enhance access and inclusion for people with disabilities.	\$5,000
Youth Action Policy Association	Provides access to the peak youth organisation representing young people and youth services in NSW.	\$460
Homelessness NSW	State peak body providing information on research and advocacy for the homelessness sector.	\$250
Sport NSW	Access to best practice guidelines and resources for sports, including a focus on access and inclusion for people with a disability and girls participation in sport. Gold membership includes resources and support to deliver two events per year.	\$1,146
ArtsHub	The leading online forum for all arts and culture industry news and developments. Membership is required in order to utilise the opportunities pages, which are an essential channel for advertising for recruitment, grants and artist opportunities.	\$1,300
Sydney Arts Management Advisory Group (SAMAG)	Access to an annual program of events to share ideas to grow an inclusive and resilient arts sector and provides an opportunity for staff to deepen connection with the sector and stay abreast of relevant issues and needs.	\$140

Sydney City Liquor Accord	A condition of the Liquor License for Sydney Town Hall is that the Licensee must be a member and attend the quarterly meetings.	\$250
Australian Live Industry Alliance	The alliance represents the production and technical areas for live events industry in Australia. They provide industry news and promote articles about technology and installations as well as post industry jobs for members.	\$500
Australia China Business Council	Membership enables closer liaison with the Chinese business community and its members and enables network building for business partnerships and initiatives.	\$3,175
Welcoming Cities	A member-based organisation that supports councils and community leaders to actively engage with migrant communities, include cultural diversity principles in policy, programming and engagement and take a whole of community approach to inclusion. This is achieved through knowledge sharing, partnerships, celebrating success and setting a National Standard for cultural diversity and inclusion policy and practice.	
National Australian Building Environmental Ratings (NABERS) Steering Committee	Contributing to policy and building environmental ratings across Australia.	

Business Renewables Centre Australia (BRCA)	Supports organisations to better understand renewable energy procurement, Australian energy markets and policy.	\$1,980
New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA)	Accreditation for Early Childhood Teacher positions.	\$1,300
Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Australia (Bayley House)	Annual membership for the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is an international approach that is coordinated in Australia by Bayley House. The program seeks to improve everyday experiences and interactions for people with hidden disabilities, assisting them navigate and find help in public places.	\$2,500

City Planning Development and Transport

International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) - Australia Secretariat	Informs the approaches to heritage conservation policy and practice for culturally significant places.	\$764
Fire Protection Association	Peak professional body for fire related services.	\$360
Planning Institute of Australia	Planning issues network, events and awards.	\$650
NSW Fair Trading Certifier Registration	Registration as Council Certifiers is a requirement for building surveyor certifier positions in the Building Certification team.	\$3,150

City Services

Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Limited - NAMS Plus	Provides staff in asset-owning organisations access to tools and online resources to develop and update their Asset Management Plans.	\$,055
Aquatic and Recreation Institute	The NSW peak body for the aquatics and recreation industry, providing professional training opportunities, conferences, and access to information.	\$299
Aquatic and Recreation Institute Victoria	The Victorian peak body for the aquatics and recreation industry, providing professional training opportunities, conferences, and access to information.	\$740
Arboriculture Australia Ltd	National body for tree management, providing professional development tools and research and best practice advice.	\$880
Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management	The peak body for traffic and transport practitioners in Australia, membership encourages best practice and provides professional development and networking opportunities.	\$1,100
Parking Australia - Parking Facility Member	Provides information on the developments in parking meter and car park technology and opportunities to ensure staff are informed of industry developments.	\$1,650

Streets Opening Coordination Council (iWorcs)	A collaboration tool so that councils, utilities, government agencies, and private companies can work together to schedule capital infrastructure works.	\$6,800
Treenet Inc	National level organisation that promotes Australian research, and a platform for advocacy for the urban forest. Memberships includes one free attendance at the yearly symposium.	\$1,600
Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association	Provides industry sector information on new developments in waste and environment issues, waste calculators and research data.	\$2,239
Parks and Leisure Australia	Representing the interests of the parks, recreation and leisure industry and related professions across Australia, membership provides professional development opportunities, sector information, news, analyses and commentary including best practice management, regulatory and standards updates and announcements.	\$2,750
Australasian Leisure Management	Leading source of information for the leisure industry.	\$200
Floodplain Management Australia	Represents the interests of floodplain communities in NSW and elsewhere in Australia, and the authorities responsible for managing floodplains. Provides advocacy on behalf of the floodplain management industry and gives staff access to professional development resources and opportunities.	\$1,820

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC - Street Lighting Improvement Program)	The Street Lighting Improvement Program was created by SSROC to implement the recommendations of an extensive review of street lighting undertaken by its members.	\$17,000
Illuminating Engineering Society of Australian	Policy development and promotion of best practice standards in the lighting industry. Provides staff with professional development, educational opportunities, and exposure to developments in the field.	\$1,050
Royal Life Saving Society of Australia	Access to the Safe Pool Operation Guidelines, the recognised national industry standard that describes and makes recommendations on minimum standards regarding pool safety.	\$113
Natspec Construction Information	Specifications for infrastructure construction and maintenance allowing the City access to contemporary industry standards.	\$3,400
Stormwater Industry Association of NSW	The main industry association in stormwater management across NSW. Provides advocacy on behalf of the NSW stormwater management industry and gives staff access to professional development resources and opportunities.	\$920

<p>Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW (SMIC)</p>	<p>The peak geospatial information industry body in NSW, with representatives from government, private industry, professionals and the tertiary education sectors. Membership gives us direct access to the decision makers in the Surveying profession and the ability to advocate for the interests of the City.</p>	<p>\$250</p>
<p>Before You Dig Australia (BYDA)</p>	<p>Membership permits the City to use the BYDA referral service to protect our civil infrastructure assets (currently survey infrastructure, stormwater drainage, electrical assets and contaminated lands). This enables us to notify civil workers and utilities of the presence and location of City assets and assists in avoiding damage to those assets.</p>	<p>\$200</p>
<p>Cooks River Coastal Management Program (Cooks River Alliance)</p>	<p>The Coastal Management Act 2016 requires local councils within the catchment area to work together to prepare a Coastal Management Program (CMP) in accordance with the Coastal Management Manual. The City's participation in the Program includes financial and in-kind support to the development of the Cooks River CMP.</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>

Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (Sydney Coastal Councils Group)	The Coastal Management Act 2016 requires local councils within the catchment area to work together to prepare a Coastal Management Program (CMP) in accordance with the Coastal Management Manual. The City's participation in the Program includes financial and in-kind support to the development of the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP.	\$26,000
IPWEA Roads Directorate	A joint initiative between local joint initiative between IPWEA (NSW) and Local Government NSW (LGNSW). It serves as a focus for research activities and the provision of technical advice to assist members in discharging their road management roles.	\$7,550
Inside Waste	Industry relevant news and information for the waste sector. (Magazine subscription)	\$65
NRMA	Roadside Assistance	\$5,097
Chargefox Pty Ltd	Subscription for City provisioned EV charging points	\$8,300

Legal and Governance

Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)	Access to resource material, including Professional Practices Framework and audit programs.	\$1,320
Information Systems Audit & Control Association (ISACA)	Access to resource material, including standards and audit programs.	\$ 400
Environment and Planning Law Association NSW	Enables staff working in the fields of planning and environmental law, including lawyers and planning staff, to maintain up to date knowledge and professional contacts in this area.	\$495
Law Society of NSW	Provides access to a professional library, legal journals and continuing professional education, in addition to networking opportunities. Membership is a requirement for staff who are accredited specialists.	\$1,320
International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC) ²	Professional Membership relating to information security	\$250

People Performance and Technology

Data Management Association of Australia (DAMA)	Data Management Association of Australia, provides best practice advice about Data Protection, Governance, and Management	\$500
Australian Society of Archivists Inc	Professional body for archivists in Australia, provides information about best practice.	\$ 818
Association of Canadian Archivists	Professional body for archivists in Canada, provides information about best practice. The society is highly regarded world-wide as being industry leaders in modern archive theory and practice.	\$350
International Council of Archives	International body for archivists, provides information about best practice.	\$374
Records and Information Management Professionals Association	RIMPA is the global professional body for records management. Membership assists the City develop and maintain industry knowledge and keep abreast of industry changes.	\$910

CEB IT Leadership Council of Midsized Companies - Gartner UK Limited (Corporate Executive Board - Information Technology)	Provides best practice research, advice, and tools and education for CIO's and IT professionals to support organisational best practice.	\$28,160
CEB HR Leadership Council of Midsized Companies - Gartner UK Limited (Corporate Executive Board - Human Resources)	Provides best practice research, tools, webinars and networking opportunities for HR professionals to support organisations committed to improving their people practices.	\$31,100
Diversity Council Australia Limited	Provides expert advice, research, events and programs, resources for diversity and inclusion in the workplace.	\$6,352
Public Sector User Forum Inc	"Pathway user group", provides staff with access to latest information on Pathway, developments, issues and exchanges of information with other people using Pathway.	\$1,300
NSW Workers Compensation Self Insurers Association	Provides members with support to comply with legislation, prevent and manage workplace injuries.	\$850
Australian Disability Network	Disability Employer Network	\$1,470

Strategic Development and Engagement

Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA)	Member-based, not-for-profit peak body enabling sustainability outcomes in infrastructure via a rating scheme; education, training and capacity building; connecting suppliers of sustainable products and services with projects; and recognition of best practice.	\$2,048
Carbon Market Institute	An independent industry association representing organisations leading the transition to a net-zero emission economy, sharing knowledge, building capacity and catalysing opportunities related to carbon markets.	\$6,248

<p>Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)</p>	<p>An international agreement among cities from all over the world, committed "to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimize waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change". Its main aim is to support cities wishing to develop more sustainable urban food systems by fostering city to city cooperation and best practices exchange.</p>	
<p>Impact Ecosystems Network</p>	<p>A global network of cities committed to collaboration and peer learning for impact ecosystems – creating more social value through economic development activities and addressing societal challenges through diverse and connected economies and ecosystems</p>	
<p>Materials and Embodied Carbon Leaders' Alliance (MECLA)</p>	<p>The alliance drives the reduction of embodied carbon in the building and construction industry.</p>	<p>\$1,050</p>
<p>Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council</p>	<p>Provides a forum for groups to gather and discuss the planning, design, delivery, operation of our built environment and its social and environmental impacts.</p>	<p>\$ 8,715</p>

C40	Provides City staff with opportunities for knowledge exchange and enables them to take collaborative action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate business, community and government action on climate change, and act as champions in the international arena. While there is no membership cost for C40, there can be costs involved in holding and attending events.	
Green Building Council of Australia	The authority on sustainable buildings and communities – accelerating the transformation of Australia's built environment. Membership provides staff with access to useful information, networking opportunities and research resources.	\$2,993
Australasian Membership - International Association for Public Participation	National industry body for community engagement practitioners which provides staff with access to current information, resources and reduced rates for events and training.	\$2,420
Smart Energy Council	Renewable energy is vital in climate change action in Australia. Provides information and research to transition Australia's energy system to a lower carbon system.	\$3,102
Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance - Global Philanthropy Partnership (Urban Sustainability Directors Network)	A collaboration of global cities working to cut carbon emissions by 80-100% by 2050 or sooner.	\$16,020

Energy Efficiency Council Inc	Provides high quality advocacy to state and federal government in the areas of energy efficiency, services and management.	\$9,345
World Cities Culture Forum	Collaboration between 40 cities via symposia, regional summits, and workshops to share ideas and knowledge about the role of culture. This forum has been very active providing fortnightly online presentations and regular global updates that are integrated into the City of Sydney's global insights data gathering to inform Covid-19 recovery planning.	\$15,000
Global Resilient Cities Network	Drives urban resilience action to protect vulnerable communities from climate change and other physical, social and economic urban adversities and challenges. The Network supports cities and their Chief Resilience Officers in future-proofing their communities and critical infrastructure.	
Music Cities Network	International network of cities actively working in live music and performance. It provides opportunities for sharing research, knowledge, and working cooperatively on exploring policy and advocacy. The group has met fortnightly since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic to share insights and strategies for mitigating the impact of the pandemic on this vulnerable sector.	\$12,000

<p>Global Covenant of Mayors</p>	<p>The Global Covenant of Mayors helped co-develop the reporting protocol for reporting on city wide greenhouse gas emission. Sydney was one of the first 10 cities to use the protocol in 2018. The City continues to use the protocol in reporting local government area emissions and works to provide this via Resilient Sydney to all other councils in metropolitan Sydney.</p>	
<p>Climate Emergency Australia</p>	<p>Provides a forum for all climate-emergency-declaring Councils in Australia to collaborate on advocacy for stronger climate action at the federal level.</p>	<p>\$10,915</p>
<p>Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)</p>	<p>An international agreement among cities from all over the world, committed "to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimize waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change". Its main aim is to support cities wishing to develop more sustainable urban food systems by fostering city to city cooperation and best practices exchange.</p>	

Impact Ecosystems Network	A global network of cities committed to collaboration and peer learning for impact ecosystems – creating more social value through economic development activities and addressing societal challenges through diverse and connected economies and ecosystems	
World Cities Culture Forum	Collaboration between 40 cities via symposia, regional summits, and workshops to share ideas and knowledge about the role of culture. This forum has been very active in leading responses to preserving and growing cultural infrastructure in major cities and is spearheading global advocacy for a sustainable development goal for culture. The WCCF provides an annual report that is integrated into the City of Sydney’s global insights data gathering to inform our strategies.	\$15,000

Music Cities Network	International network of cities actively working to support live music and performance and contemporary music policy at a municipal level. It provides opportunities for sharing research, knowledge, and working cooperatively on exploring policy and advocacy. The group meets online monthly and has an annual summit in a host-city. Recent years have focused on shared strategies for mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the live performance sector. Future projects are focused on building an international network of music businesses and promoters across the member cities.	\$10,000
Australian Food Network	Annual membership to share information, best practice and learnings on sustainable food systems with other local authorities across Australia.	\$1,000