

Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship – Affordable Housing Conference 2018

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Summary

On 27 and 28 June 2018, the NSW Federation of Housing Associations (the Federation) and Homelessness NSW Incorporated will co-convene the Affordable Housing Conference 2018 in Sydney.

The conference will bring together many different stakeholders and decision-makers, providing them with a platform to exchange ideas and discuss solutions to the current and growing shortfall of accessible and affordable housing in Australia across the entire housing continuum. This will include those working within the housing and homelessness sector, as well as the industry's financiers, property developers, government policy makers, land use planners, academics, and professionals from the private, not-for-profit, and government sectors.

The conference's program will cover a range of topics, including the role of housing in driving and boosting economic growth and productivity, how government investment and public policy intervention can increase affordable housing supply, what support the community housing sector needs to grow and better address the shortage of affordable rental housing, and how service delivery to vulnerable communities, including people experiencing homelessness, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability and older people, could be improved by an increased supply of appropriate affordable housing.

Housing affordability is a critical issue affecting inner Sydney, and the themes and issues addressed in the conference are especially relevant to the local area and its communities. The conference will include sessions that focus on the role and opportunities for local government to support the increased delivery of affordable housing, and will highlight the key partnerships and policy levers that can help facilitate this.

The Federation is the State industry peak body representing the community housing sector. Homelessness NSW is a peak organisation that works with members to prevent and reduce homelessness across the State. The Federation and Homelessness NSW regularly conduct conferences and professional seminars in NSW. The Federation has applied for sponsorship of the conference under the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program.

The request for sponsorship has been assessed against the aims of the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program and was found to strongly align with key outcomes of the program, in particular:

- encouraging the exchange of ideas and knowledge;
- the development of strong networks through which participants can share resources and acquire new knowledge and skills; and
- contributing to the development of the industry sector.

The event shows a clear alignment with the strategic objectives of Sustainable Sydney 2030 and its goal of increasing housing diversity and affordability in Sydney. It also aligns strongly with the strategic directions of the City's Social Sustainability Policy– A City for All, and its vision for an inclusive and socially just city, where opportunities and benefits are delivered equitably across society.

The sponsorship package would provide the City with the opportunity for a complimentary exhibition booth, registration for at least four delegates to the conference, which will be offered first to Councillors and then relevant staff, City of Sydney branding in conference marketing materials, and formal acknowledgment at the event. Free tickets for local social housing tenants will also be included as part of the package.

It is recommended that cash sponsorship of \$20,000 (excluding GST) be provided to the Federation for the Affordable Housing Conference 2018.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve cash sponsorship of \$20,000 (excluding GST) under the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program to the NSW Federation of Housing Associations Inc for the Affordable Housing Conference 2018; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a sponsorship agreement with the NSW Federation of Housing Associations Inc.

Attachments

Nil.

Background

1. The NSW Federation of Housing Associations (the Federation) is the peak industry body for community housing providers in NSW. The Federation's work to support the development of this sector includes: representation and sector co-ordination; research, policy and sector development; relationship building and network support; accredited industry training and capacity building, and organisational support and technical advice. Homelessness NSW is a peak organisation that works with members, including key service providers, to prevent and reduce homelessness across the State.
2. The Federation and Homelessness NSW are experienced in hosting conferences and professional seminars, in partnership with industry and institutional organisations, including a similar successful event in 2016, which the City sponsored.
3. The forthcoming Affordable Housing Conference in Sydney on 27 and 28 June 2018, at the Sydney Masonic Centre, will be co-convened by the Federation and Homelessness NSW.
4. The conference will provide a forum to explore key issues affecting the delivery of a significant supply of new low cost rental housing in NSW. This includes how all levels of government and community organisations can work together under emerging policy initiatives to deliver a significant quantity of additional affordable dwellings.
5. The organising committee anticipates over 400 delegates from government and not-for-profit organisations, including a proposed stream for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. The participation of community members is also being encouraged, and there is a reduced registration fee for social housing tenants. The City is seeking additional free tickets for local social housing tenants, to ensure that they have the opportunity to participate in the event.
6. This request for sponsorship has been assessed against the aims of the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program and is aligned with key program outcomes, in particular: encouraging the exchange of ideas and knowledge; developing strong networks through which participants can share resources and acquire new knowledge and skills; and contributing to the development of the industry sector.
7. The conference's key focus and themes show a clear alignment with strategic objectives of Sustainable Sydney 2030, and its goal and targets for increasing housing diversity and affordability.
8. The conference also aligns closely with the strategic objectives of A City for All – the City's Social Sustainability Policy and forthcoming Action Plan. Ensuring a diverse supply of housing for people on a range of incomes, including social and affordable housing, is a key aspect of the vision for sustaining Sydney as an inclusive and socially just city.
9. This sponsorship support will provide the City with the opportunity to actively participate in this event in a range of ways. The City's sponsorship is equivalent to that of a "Gold" sponsorship package. At a minimum, this will provide the City with the opportunity for:
 - (a) verbal acknowledgment as the conference's Government Partner during the opening speech;

- (b) registration for at least four delegates to the conference, and the dinner and networking event; and
 - (c) City of Sydney logo branding in the conference marketing materials and program.
10. The City is also negotiating the addition of free tickets for local social housing tenants as part of the sponsorship package.
11. It is recommended that cash sponsorship of \$20,000 (excluding GST) be provided to the NSW Federation of Housing Associations for the Affordable Housing Conference 2018, from funding available in the City's Strategy and Urban Analytics budget for 2017/18.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

12. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This sponsorship is strongly aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - diverse and affordable housing supply plays a key role in building communities and local economies, contributing to socio-economic diversity, resilience and adaptive capacity. It also supports the development of local enterprise and employment by enabling workers essential to a dynamic global city to live close to their place of work, including essential services workers, along with workers in start-up enterprises, social enterprises and diverse sectors, including retail.
 - (b) Direction 8 - Housing for a Diverse Population - this addresses the need for diverse housing supply as the foundation for sustaining social and economic diversity. It emphasises the need for a wide range of housing so people on a range of incomes can afford to live in the city - a key agenda of this conference.

Organisational Impact

13. Sponsorship of the event will result in the nomination of a Council officer to provide contract management and coordination services.
14. The organisation will benefit from the knowledge gained and shared by attendees, as a result of free ticket allocations.

Social / Cultural / Community

15. The conference's objectives and themes recognise the fundamental importance of affordable housing supply as core social infrastructure to sustain Sydney's liveability, equity and global competitiveness, recognising a range of factors, such as:
- (a) the accessibility of the city to people who are disadvantaged, including low income earners and older Australians;
 - (b) approaches to breaking cycles of homelessness through innovative housing models; and

- (c) wider social diversity concerns, including an identified focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing.

Economic

- 16. A key theme of the conference will be exploring the role that housing plays in economic growth and productivity. The conference outcomes closely align with aspirations for the sustainable economic development of the city identified in Sustainable Sydney 2030.
- 17. The provision of housing for people on a range of incomes, in a range of jobs, underpins a healthy, diverse economy. Additionally, safe and secure housing is recognised as central to individuals' social and economic wellbeing and long term education and employment prospects. Ensuring quality housing supply is available for all people will underpin Sydney's global competitiveness and economic sustainability in the long term. As such, this focus of the conference is strongly aligned with the City's housing supply goals.

Budget Implications

- 18. Funding of \$20,000 (excluding GST) for sponsorship of the conference is available in the Strategy and Urban Analytics budget for the 2017/18 financial year.

Relevant Legislation

- 19. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

- 20. The Affordable Housing Conference 2018 will take place on 27 and 28 June 2018.

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