

Attachment D

**Deputy Lord Mayor's Presentation and
Speech at the Tokyo Forum for Clean City
and Clear Sky**

TOKYO FORUM FOR CLEAN CITY & CLEAR SKY

May 22, 2018

10.30am

Thank you, [MC] and good morning, everyone. I'm pleased to represent the City of Sydney at this important forum, and I would like to acknowledge the other speakers here today and have listened with interest to their ideas.

In contrast with many of your cities, the City of Sydney is relatively small – just 26 square kilometres, and 200,000 residents – though that number is growing. But with workers, students and visitors, we have over 1.2 million people in our area each day.

And as Australia's only global city, it is a major drawcard for migrants and visitors, and attracts massive investment. In the decade to 2016, job numbers increased by almost 30 per cent – with the major employers now being professional and business services, financial services, visitor accommodation, restaurants and cafes.

So it is imperative that we can accommodate this growing population in a sustainable way while making sure that Sydney remains one of the world's most liveable cities.

Since the Independent team was elected to run Sydney in 2004, there has been a strong focus on sustainability and liveability. Following the most comprehensive consultation ever undertaken with residents, businesses both large and small, visitors and institutions and other levels of government, we developed our Sustainable Sydney 2030 strategy.

The overwhelming response from 97 per cent of those whose ideas and opinions we sought was that climate change and the challenges it presents had to be a priority.

This strategy is much more than a statement of ambitions – it sets specific and very ambitious targets and outlines the steps we need to take to reach them in the time-frames specified. It also provides for regular monitoring to ensure we are on-track to meet our goals.

We developed master plans for energy efficiency, renewable energy, tri-generation and climate adaptation.

We have committed to reducing emissions in our own operations by 44 per cent, and to move to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2021. Across our city area, the targets are net zero emissions by 2050, and 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

We take confidence from our achievements so far. We became carbon neutral in 2007 and in 2011 became the first government in Australia to be certified as such.

Since 2006, our economy has expanded by 37 per cent. Under a business-as-usual scenario, that would have increased our greenhouse emissions by 50 per cent but we have actually driven emissions down by 25 per cent in our own operations and city-wide by 19 per cent.

We have installed solar panels on many of our own buildings and sporting complexes, and created a number of water-harvesting and recycling systems to keep some of our bigger parks green and fresh, upgraded green spaces, and planted thousands of trees.

We are also building a separated cycling network and increased open space by 26 hectares.

The City of Sydney is an active member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group which is made up of 90 cities which together contribute one quarter of global GDP and represent 650 million people.

At the last summit in 2016, new research presented showed that the next couple of years will determine whether the world meets the Paris Agreement targets and showed that – in the words of director Mark Watts – “we need to do twice as much in half the time”.

As one of the highest per capita emitters of greenhouse gas, Australia has a lot of work to do. Unfortunately, our Federal Government is still lagging on decisive action.

But we have found that our residents and business leaders are very ready and eager to take action with us.

We have earmarked \$10 million to increase the uptake of renewable energy and we want to leverage this investment through strategic partnerships. We are working with a major transmission provider on a massive battery at a council depot to complement the 480 kilowatts of solar panels on the roof.

We hope the site will be energy-neutral and provide useful research on reducing network peaks during stress. We are also investing and working with a utility company on energy efficiency and solar projects that will permanently reduce energy use.

One of our most effective collaborations has been in partnership with major building owners who provide more than half the commercial space in the City. The partnership develops ways to reduce waste in leasing, operations and refurbishments, and installs solar and water recycling systems.

By last June, the partnership had logged a 52 per cent reduction in carbon emissions on a 2006 baseline, while growing their portfolio by 14 per cent. And of course the members were happy with their \$33 million annual saving in power costs. They are now working towards net zero building, and we are working with hotels, entertainment and conference venues on a similar partnership.

And we have a very similar program to work with the 75 per cent of our residents who are apartment dwellers in our City to lower energy and water consumption and better manage waste.

We have a comprehensive strategy to tackle residential waste and are about trial a food waste collection which will convert domestic food waste to high-grade compost or energy.

With other measures including special collections for clothing and textiles, electronic waste and problem waste like chemicals, we aim to have 90 per cent of our current annual total of 65,000 tonnes of residential waste diverted from landfill by 2030.

The challenges – for Sydney as for all cities – remain huge but we can overcome them by working together – with our residents, with businesses, and with other cities around the world.

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