

## **C40 Women4Climate Conference 2020**

**File No: X022142**

### **Summary**

The City of Sydney has submitted a competitive bid along with other global cities to host the C40 Women4Climate conference in 2020.

The City became a member of the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) in 2007. C40 is a group of 94 of the world's largest cities, representing more than 700 million people committed to collaborative action on climate change.

Participating cities commit to practical action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, to working with business, community and government on climate change, and providing leadership internationally.

Women4Climate is an initiative of C40. Its aim is to support and empower young female leaders (including up and coming leaders) taking action to protect the environment.

Women4Climate is shaped by three pillars - mentoring, research, and technology.

The annual Women4Climate conference is one of C40's flagship events, designed to bring together hundreds of influential and inspiring mayors, business leaders and innovative change-makers from around the world.

The conference aims to advance a shared agenda that spans innovation, education and social equality. It highlights the critical role of women in creating a healthier, greener and more economically prosperous urban future.

One component of the bid process is for the host city to commit to the development of a mentorship program. The Mentorship Program aims to empower the next generation of female climate leaders by connecting them with successful and inspiring female climate leaders. The City of Sydney has committed to developing a Mentorship Program in collaboration with Women4Climate and invited women from a variety of professions across Sydney.

An additional component of the Women4Climate conference is the presentation of a research project undertaken prior to the conference, which focusses on gender, cities and climate change, to highlight the pivotal role women play in championing climate change policies.

The research report developed for each host city will help inform how climate action must be re-thought to account for gender and wider issues of inclusivity. The research report presented at the San Francisco Women4Climate conference recommended steps to increase participation of women and people of colour in cycling in San Francisco.

The City of Sydney has also committed to collaborate with Women4Climate and a research provider to commission a research project for the City of Sydney.

The Women4Climate conference will also feature innovators from the Women4Climate Tech Challenge - a global competition involving women in the tech community, designed to spark innovation and accelerate climate solutions for a wide range of issues such as mobility, food, waste, water, buildings, urban farming and air quality.

## Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve that the City of Sydney host the C40 Women4Climate 2020 conference;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Office to negotiate, execute and administer an agreement with C40 Women4Climate for the City of Sydney to host the 2020 C40 Women4Climate conference;
- (C) Council note that provision will be made in the 2019/20 budget of \$550,000 (excluding GST) to fund the cost of the conference and affiliated events; and
- (D) Council note that included within the budget of \$550, 000 is a contribution of \$100,000 (USD) (the final \$AUD amount is subject to exchange rate variation) (excluding GST) that the City of Sydney is required to make to C40, for their conference expenses. The City of Sydney can seek to recover this amount through external sponsorship of the conference, however, if this amount is not raised, the contribution to C40 must be covered by Council.

## Attachments

**Attachment A.** Budget for Women4Climate Conference 2020

## Background

### C40 Cities

1. The City became a member of the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) in 2007, and has participated in C40 Summits held in New York in 2007, Seoul in 2009, São Paulo in 2011 and Johannesburg in 2014.
2. The City's continued presence and involvement at C40 events is an important signal of our commitment to climate action and an opportunity to exchange ideas, gain knowledge and build international relationships that will contribute to a stronger plan and a better future for the city.
3. Women4Climate is an initiative of C40 Cities - a group of 94 of the world's largest cities, representing more than 700 million people committed to collaborative action to address climate change.

### Women4Climate Conference

4. Women make up more than half the world's population, and although they are often more impacted by climate change, their voices have not always been heard due to lack of representation at the decision-making level.
5. The numbers are shifting. In 2014, there were only four female mayors amongst C40's global cities. In 2018, there are 20. Twenty-one per cent of C40 mayors are now women, representing 110 million urban citizens.
6. Female leaders played a pivotal role in negotiating the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015, and will be crucial to its success in the future. Now more than ever, enhancing women's participation and leadership is critical to securing a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for us all.
7. The Women4Climate initiative was founded by Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, the Chair of C40, in 2016 to inspire the next generation of female climate leaders to become the problem solvers and innovators needed in the world's cities.
8. Women4Climate's philosophy for climate-change innovation is shaped by three pillars: mentoring, research, and technology.

### Women4Climate Mentorship Program

9. The City of Sydney has committed to developing a Mentorship Program in collaboration with Women4Climate and invited women from a variety of professions across Sydney.
10. The Women4Climate Mentorship Program is a ten-month program that seeks to empower the next generation of female climate leaders by connecting them with successful and inspiring female climate leaders.
11. The second pillar, research, emphasises the need for evidence and case studies to show the impact of climate change.
12. Women4Climate's Tech Challenge is an international contest open to any woman carrying out an innovative technology solution focused on climate change.

13. Women4Climate helps connect these start-ups and innovators with cities who can conduct experiments to test the new solutions. If successful they can be scaled-up to help cities worldwide. Complementary to the Women4Climate Mentorship Program, the key goal of the Tech Challenge is to promote concrete solutions with a measurable impact in cities.
14. The annual Women4Climate Conference is one of C40's flagship events, designed to bring together hundreds of influential and inspiring mayors, business leaders, mentees from the mentorship program and innovative change-makers from around the world who are committed to taking action on climate change and air pollution.
15. The conference provides a platform for a unique cross-section of powerful women – and men – to advance a shared agenda that spans education, innovation, and social equality. It highlights the critical role of women in creating a healthier, greener and more economically prosperous urban future.
16. At the Council meeting on 10 December 2018, Council endorsed the travel of the Lord Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and one other staff member to attend the 2019 Women4Climate conference in Paris on 21 February 2019.
17. Information on Women4Climate is at [www.w4c.org](http://www.w4c.org).

#### **Proposed Sydney Women4Climate Conference**

18. The C40 Women4Climate conference in 2020 aims to:
  - (a) empower and inspire the next generation of climate leaders through the global mentorship programme;
  - (b) influence the conversation through leadership events and create a new vocation among future leaders;
  - (c) drive action by launching an annual challenge dedicated to the best innovations in climate and sustainability; and
  - (d) raise awareness through research on gender, cities and climate to highlight gendered climate impacts in the urban context, and the key role women play in championing climate policies.
19. The Sydney Women4Climate conference would be held over three days in April 2020 (TBC).
20. The three day program could consist of:
  - (a) CityTalks - to engage the delegates, invited guests and citizens of Sydney.
  - (b) The Women4Climate Conference and lunch.
  - (c) Associated meetings, roundtables, tours of projects, programs and initiatives that reflect the city's commitment to climate change.
  - (d) A welcome reception.
  - (e) A post conference report.

21. The Women4Climate conference will play a key role in showcasing the success of the mentorship program, the research project and the Women4Climate initiative.
22. The City of Sydney will begin work on a comprehensive conference plan in collaboration with Women4Climate approximately nine months prior to the conference delivery.

## **Key Implications**

### **Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision**

23. 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 report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - Hosting the C40 2020 Women4Climate Conference will support and enhance Sydney's reputation as a leader in this important field.
  - (b) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer - An important focus of the Woman4Climate is facilitating world-leading innovation in climate solutions. Hosting the Women4Climate conference will provide the opportunity to be involved in exciting new solutions to the challenge of climate change.
  - (c) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships - The Women4Climate Conference provides opportunities for the active exchange of ideas and building of international relationships that can support a strong and sustainable future for the city.

### **Social / Cultural / Community**

24. Benefits would arise for the local community, including female professionals, students, academics and community members who can attend the Women4Climate conference, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability and people from culturally diverse backgrounds. The conference will be open to all and will meet the equality, diversity and accessibility values of the City of Sydney.

### **Environmental**

25. The objectives of the C40 and Women4Climate align closely with the Sustainable Sydney 2030 plan to become a sustainable global city, and one of the world's leading green cities. Hosting the Women4Climate conference will enable Sydney to demonstrate environmental leadership and learn from the experiences of other cities.

### **Economic**

26. Sydney businesses and small businesses would benefit from the visitation spend of the international and local Women4Climate delegates during the conference.

**Budget Implications**

27. Provision will be made in the 2019/20 operating budget for \$550,000 (excluding GST) to fund the cost of the conference and associated host responsibilities, as outlined in the Women4Climate conference concept outline which includes the Mentoring Program, the CityTalks and a contribution to the research project.
28. In accordance with the conditions of the Women4Climate conference concept outline, external sponsorship will be sought for \$100,000 (USD) (the final \$AUD amount is subject to exchange rate variation) (excluding GST) of the C40 costs of running of this event.
29. The expenditure budget of \$550,000 will not be affected by the amount of sponsorship income raised; sponsorship constitutes a potential offset of costs. A separate sponsorship income budget for \$100,000 (USD) (the final \$AUD amount is subject to exchange rate variation) will also be included within the 2019/20 operating budget.

**Critical Dates / Time Frames**

30. Important dates are:
  - (a) 21 February 2019 - C40 Women4Climate Conference 2019, Paris; and
  - (b) April 2020 - Women4Climate conference (dates TBC).

**KIM WOODBURY**

Chief Operating Officer

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