

Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship - 2021 Impact X Climate Growth Sydney Summit

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Summary

An application from Impact X Pty Ltd has been received under the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship program to support the 2021 Impact X Climate Growth Sydney Summit, to be held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Sydney on 21 and 22 September 2021.

Impact X Pty Ltd is an organisation which aims to accelerate net zero by shifting global capital and bringing together green-technology innovators and investors in the fields of food systems, energy and carbon solutions, inclusive finance, resilient cities, improved health and the circular economy.

The Impact X Climate Growth Sydney Summit is anticipated to be Australia's largest coalition of companies, government agencies, innovators and investors committed to climate action. The event is expected to be attended by over 2,500 business and government leaders with representatives from the finance, technology, research and development and professional/legal services operating in the decarbonisation space. This is the first year that the Summit will be held in Sydney.

The application has been assessed under the City's Grants and Sponsorship Policy and the criteria of the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship program. This report recommends a \$15,000 (excluding GST) cash sponsorship to support this event.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a cash sponsorship of \$15,000 (excluding GST) to Impact X Pty Ltd for the 2021 Impact X Climate Growth Summit Sydney; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a sponsorship agreement with Impact X Pty Ltd in relation to the sponsorship described in (A) above.

Attachments

Nil.

Background

1. The Impact X Climate Growth Sydney Summit will be the first global summit on accelerating pathways to zero emissions. The Summit will be jointly hosted by Business Events Sydney and Singapore-based Blue Impacts. It aims to bring Australia's most promising and exciting climate innovators to the stage and position NSW and Australia as a world leader in clean energy, decarbonisation technologies and carbon services.
2. The Summit will promote awareness of the job creation and economic growth opportunities that will come from investment into decarbonisation and climate resilience. Australian innovators including Indigenous-led carbon and climate initiatives will be presented across the agenda.
3. The Summit organisers are committed to a sustainable event that directly supports local communities. Grant funds will be used specifically for the central digital video piece to be launched and displayed at the Summit and surroundings, published on social media and produced by local disadvantaged creative film and video graphic artists.
4. As a hub for banking, finance and insurance, there are many Sydney-based businesses which will benefit directly from the event being held locally, especially in the context of a green-led recovery and in the lead up to World Zero Emissions Day and the UN General Assembly and COP26 in Glasgow.
5. Sponsorship of Impact X Summit aligns with the objectives of the City of Sydney's Environment Strategy, Economic Development Strategy and the Tech Startups Action Plan. Specifically, the Impact X Summit aligns strategically as it seeks to drive emissions reduction through the profiling of local startups supporting them to reach global markets and drive global solutions.
6. The City is committed to working with industry and government partners to strengthen the ecosystem which enables entrepreneurs to start and grow successful global businesses. Sponsoring Impact X Summit will enable the City to demonstrate this commitment.
7. This application has been assessed under the City's Grants and Sponsorship Policy and Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship program. The Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship program recognises that, for the city to thrive, we must support and create an environment that fosters collaboration and learning.
8. The application has been assessed as contributing to the following program outcomes:
 - (a) adoption and implementation of best practice approaches by organisations and individuals;
 - (b) strong networks where participants share resources and acquire new knowledge and skills;
 - (c) improved capacity in organisations and individuals to develop and maintain sustainable business ventures; and
 - (d) increased recognition of Sydney as an innovative and creative city.

9. Benefits of sponsorship to the City would be agreed with the Impact X Pty Ltd via a sponsorship agreement and would include program involvement (including keynote speaker), theme input, and promotional material.
10. Under the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship program, not-for-profit and for-profit organisations are eligible to apply. Impact X Pty Ltd is a for-profit organisation.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

11. 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 aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - this event will help local start-up businesses connect with investors, helping them to scale.
 - (b) Direction 2 - A Leading Environmental Performer - sponsorship benefits will showcase City leadership and collaboration with other leading organisations.
 - (c) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - the Summit relates to both micro- and macro-economic opportunities for reducing emissions including sustainable development.
 - (d) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships - the Summit is to be attended by government, business and community organisations working to a common goal.

Social / Cultural / Community

12. The event is directly engaging the local Indigenous community. Local Indigenous musical artists will perform at the evening networking event. The event is featuring Indigenous carbon and energy sector businesses. Further, food and beverages are being sourced through Indigenous suppliers.

Environmental

13. This event will provide insights into climate science impacts and opportunities to reduce and sequester carbon emissions via technology, programs, policy and good governance. It will provide an opportunity for innovators and investors to connect which will enable accelerated implementation of decarbonising technologies.

Economic

14. This event will provide insights into climate risks and opportunities for businesses operating in the local government area.

Risks

15. Due to current restrictions on public gatherings, the organisers have a Covid safety plan for the proposed event and includes contingencies for Covid-19 related restrictions. The City will work with the applicant if the event is to be postponed or converted to an online event.

Financial Implications

16. There are sufficient funds, at the level requested, to support this summit in the City's 2021/22 Grants and Sponsorship budget.

Relevant Legislation

17. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for exercising its functions.
18. Section 356(3)(a) - (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
- (a) the funding is part of the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship program;
 - (b) the details of this program have been included in Council's draft operational plan for financial year 2021/22;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2021/22; and
 - (d) this program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

19. The 2021 Impact X Climate Growth Sydney Summit will be held on 21 and 22 September 2021.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

Chris Fitzpatrick, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator