

International Travel - Nagoya Festival and 45th Anniversary Sister City Celebrations and C40 World Mayors Summit 2025

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Summary

Nagoya Festival and 45th Anniversary Sister City Celebrations

In 2025, the City of Sydney and City of Nagoya celebrate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of our Sister City relationship.

In honour of the 45th anniversary, the Mayor of Nagoya, Mr. Ichiro Hirosawa, accompanied by 4 representatives from the City of Nagoya and members and staff from the Nagoya City Assembly, plan to visit Sydney from 23 to 28 October 2025.

To mark this anniversary, the Mayor of Nagoya, Mr. Ichiro Hirosawa, has invited the Lord Mayor to visit and participate in the Nagoya Festival to be held from 17 to 19 October 2025.

Given the significance of this anniversary and the long-standing relationship between our 2 cities, it is important that the City of Sydney is officially represented at the Nagoya Festival.

As the Lord Mayor is unable to attend, it is proposed that the delegation is led by Councillor Robert Kok and Councillor Lyndon Gannon who will represent the Lord Mayor at any civic events.

C40 World Mayors Summit 2025

The C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 is taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 5 November 2025.

The Summit will bring together mayors, climate leaders, businesses, philanthropists, investors, scientists, academics, and youth leaders from around the world to take stock, celebrate the last two decades of decisive city leadership in tackling the climate crisis; and offer fresh momentum for timely international climate negotiations.

The Lord Mayor was invited to attend the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 by the Co-Chairs of C40, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and the Executive Director of C40 Cities.

As the Lord Mayor is unable to attend, it is proposed that Councillor Jess Miller represent the Lord Mayor at the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025.

The Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy (adopted by Council in December 2024) requires that overseas travel for Councillors be approved by Council on an individual trip basis.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council endorse Councillor Robert Kok and Councillor Lyndon Gannon in representing the Lord Mayor and the City of Sydney at the Nagoya Festival from 17 to 19 October 2025 to mark the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Sister City relationship between the City of Sydney and the City of Nagoya;
- (B) Council note that Councillor Robert Kok and Councillor Lyndon Gannon will provide a report to Council after the travel;
- (C) Council endorse Councillor Jess Miller in representing the Lord Mayor and the City of Sydney at the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 from 3 to 5 November 2025 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- (D) Council note that Councillor Jess Miller will provide a report to Council after the travel;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to authorise minor variations to travel plans including dates and costs as required (increases of up to \$1,000 including GST per person).

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Formal Invitation from Ichiro Hirosawa, Mayor of City of Nagoya
- Attachment B.** C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 Invitation

Background

Nagoya Festival and 45th Anniversary Sister City Celebrations

1. The City of Sydney and City of Nagoya signed a sister city relationship in 1980. The cities have since seconded staff trainees and supported reciprocal visits by school rugby union teams, bands and dance ensembles. There is also a student exchange agreement between educational authorities and a sister zoo relationship between Taronga Zoo and Nagoya Higashiyama Zoo.
2. Over the last 20 years, the City has sent official representatives to Nagoya 3 times - in 2005, 2010 and 2015. There was no official visit in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.
3. In 2005, the delegation to Nagoya was made up of the Lord Mayor and 3 City staff members. Delegations in 2010 and 2015 were each made up of 2 Councillors and one City staff member. In 2025, it is proposed that 2 Councillors make up the City delegation. Due to the long-standing nature of the relationship, historically Council has unanimously resolved that there be a delegation to represent the City at anniversary sister city celebrations.
4. To mark the 45th anniversary of our sister city relationship the Mayor of Nagoya, Mr. Ichiro Hirosawa has invited the Lord Mayor to visit and participate in the Nagoya Festival to be held from 17 to 19 October 2025.
5. Following the Festival, the Mayor of Nagoya, Mayor Hirosawa, is leading a delegation to Sydney from 23 to 28 October 2026 to also mark the 45th anniversary of our sister city relationship. Proposed events include a commemorative ceremony in Hyde Park, a courtesy call and a reception with the Lord Mayor, a visit to the Customs House Library and Taronga Zoo as well as attendance at the Japan Expo at Sydney Town Hall.
6. The Nagoya Festival is the largest annual event in Nagoya. Held over several days, it includes a parade with more than 700 participants.
7. An integral part of the Nagoya Festival is the Sister City Parade where each of Nagoya's Sister Cities are represented in a one-hour parade, witnessed by an estimated 700,000 people.
8. As the Lord Mayor is unable to attend, it is proposed that the delegation is led by Councillor Robert Kok and Councillor Lyndon Gannon who will represent the Lord Mayor at any civic events. Note that Council has delegated authority to the Lord Mayor to determine who should represent Council at civic, ceremonial and social functions where: a. the Lord Mayor is unable to attend; and b. Council has not determined its representative. The Lord Mayor has nominated Councillor Kok and Councillor Gannon to represent the City.

C40 World Mayors Summit 2025

9. C40 is a group of 97 of the world's largest cities, representing more than 700 million people committed to collaborative action on climate change.
10. The City became a member of the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) in 2007, and has participated at C40 Summits held in New York in 2007, Seoul in 2009, São Paulo in 2011, Johannesburg in 2014, Mexico City in 2016 and Paris in 2019.

11. The C40 World Mayors Summit, organised every 3 years, offers a valuable opportunity to connect with peer city leaders as well as with influential global and regional stakeholders, and to showcase city climate leadership on the global stage.
12. 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.
13. The C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 is taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 5 November 2025.
14. The Summit will bring together mayors, climate leaders, businesses, philanthropists, investors, scientists, academics, and youth leaders from around the world to take stock, celebrate the last two decades of decisive city leadership in tackling the climate crisis; and offer fresh momentum for timely international climate negotiations.
15. The Lord Mayor was invited to attend the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025 by the Co-Chairs of C40, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and the Executive Director of C40 Cities.
16. As the Lord Mayor is unable to attend, it is proposed that Councillor Jess Miller represent the Lord Mayor at the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025. Note that Council has delegated authority to the Lord Mayor to determine who should represent Council at civic, ceremonial and social functions where: a. the Lord Mayor is unable to attend; and b. Council has not determined its representative. The Lord Mayor has nominated Councillor Miller to represent the City.
17. One senior City staff member will also attend the C40 World Mayors Summit 2025. The Register of Delegations from Council to the Lord Mayor notes the Lord Mayor approves all reasonable international travel by staff for Council related business and that the travel and expenses are to be reported in the annual report and quarterly performance reports to Council. The Lord Mayor approved this travel request under delegation noting that C40 will meet the costs of international flights, accommodation and local costs.

Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy

18. The Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy (adopted by Council in December 2024) requires that overseas travel for Councillors be approved by Council on an individual trip basis.
19. For overseas meetings, conferences or seminars, a report or relevant material must be prepared for circulation to the Council and review by the public within 6 months of the travel undertaken.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

20. 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 2 - A leading environmental performer - The C40 Summit will bring together mayors, climate leaders, businesses, philanthropists, investors, scientists, academics, and youth leaders from around the world to take stock, celebrate the last two decades of decisive city leadership in tackling the climate crisis; and offer fresh momentum for timely international climate negotiations.
 - (b) Direction 9 - A transformed and innovative economy - Sister City relationships contribute to the City of Sydney maintaining its position locally, nationally, and globally as a destination for business, investment, and talent.

Risks

21. This recommendation is within the City of Sydney's risk appetite which states:
- (a) We recognise the significance of our reputation as a valuable asset that influences stakeholder trust, business continuity and the short- and long-term achievement of our objectives.

Environmental

22. The objectives of C40 and the World Mayors Summit 2025 align closely with Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 plans to become a sustainable global city, and one of the world's leading green cities.

Economic

23. The City of Sydney's representation at the Nagoya Festival aligns with the Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035, which aims to promote our city internationally as one of the best places in the world to live, work, study, play, visit create and invest.

Relevant Legislation

- 24. Local Government Act 1993.
- 25. Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
- 26. City of Sydney Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy.

Financial Implications

27. The City will need to cover air travel, accommodation, ground transport and incidentals, at an approximate cost of \$5,000 (including GST) per person for the Nagoya Festival and 45th Anniversary Sister City Celebrations.

28. The costs of international flights for Councillor Miller, accommodation and local costs for the World Mayors Summit 2025 will be met by C40. It is proposed that the cost of any incidentals be met by the City at an estimated maximum cost of \$1,000.
29. Funds are available within existing operational budgets, in accordance with the Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

30. The Nagoya invitation includes official engagements for the period 17 to 19 October 2025.
31. The C40 World Mayors Summit is taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 5 November 2025.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer