

External Memberships

File No: S076031

Summary

The City of Sydney is a member of a wide range of associations and organisations which provide staff and Councillors with access to up-to-date information and information-sharing opportunities, forums and conferences for professional and policy development.

The memberships held by the City of Sydney are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant to the work of the City and are provided to Council for information. The City's current memberships are outlined in Attachment A.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the existing memberships as outlined in Attachment A. The City's memberships will continue to be reviewed and any significant changes reported to Council.

This report also seeks Council approval for the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to accept hosting up to 3 roundtables/forums/events per year at City of Sydney venues.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council receive and note the City's membership of the associations outlined in Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note that final membership amounts change from time to time and any significant changes will be reported back to Council via the CEO Update; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to accept hosting up to 3 roundtables/forums/events per year at City of Sydney venues and to waive costs associated with hosting these events.

Attachments

Attachment A. List of Existing External Memberships

Background

1. The City of Sydney is a member of a range of associations which provide access to professional support, updated industry information and information sharing, forums and conferences for professional and policy development and accreditation.
2. Memberships cover a wide range of associations to reflect the breadth of City activities.
3. The City contributes to and works with these groups to achieve our goals.
4. The total cost of these memberships is estimated to be \$1,080,092 for the current financial year.
5. These memberships were included in the budget for 2025/26.
6. The top 3 memberships account for \$326,836 and includes the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM), Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC).
7. The other smaller memberships make up the remaining \$753,256.

Events

8. From time to time, some of these organisations request that the City of Sydney host roundtable/forums/events at City of Sydney venues.
9. It is recommended that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Lord Mayor to accept hosting up to 3 roundtables/forums/events per year at City of Sydney venues and to waive costs associated with hosting these events.
10. Only venues owned and managed by the City will be used, therefore there will be no cost to Council for venue hire. The City will absorb costs associated with equipment hire, staffing and catering that may be required at these events.
11. All Councillors will be invited to any events hosted by the City under these arrangements.
12. Any support/costs will be documented and provided to Council as part of the quarterly review supplementary reports.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

13. 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 1 - Responsible governance and stewardship - external memberships provide staff and Councillors with access to up-to-date information and information-sharing opportunities, forums and conferences for professional and policy development.

Risks

14. This approach to external memberships is within the City's risk appetite, which states:
- The City has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the short, medium and long term to provide the levels of service that are both affordable and considered appropriate by the community.
 - 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.
 - We are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.

Financial Implications

15. The existing cost of these memberships is estimated to be \$1,080,092 for the current financial year which has been provided for in the 2025/26 operating budget.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Erin Cashman, Manager OCEO