

Relevant Information for Council

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TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kate Deacon, Executive Director Strategic Development and Engagement
Veronica Lee, Executive Director City Services
Paulette Sutherland, Executive Director People, Performance and Technology

THROUGH: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.7 – External Memberships

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

To provide additional information on memberships held or previously held by the City of Sydney.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 20 October 2025, further information was sought on the following:

Music Cities Network

The Music Cities Network was established in 2016 and currently has 17 member cities from around the world, including Sydney. The network facilitates collaboration between people working in music policy and programs at a city-level. It includes both people working for city governments and people working in regional music boards or music development associations.

The primary aim of the network is to promote the role of music, and healthy music ecosystems, in the development of cities. The network provides opportunities for knowledge exchange, collective research, strategy development and the sharing of artist opportunities between member cities. The network is currently working on a standard measurement framework for defining and tracking “music ecosystems” in cities, and a knowledge hub of free resources for music policy professionals. Recent projects include a music policy exchange, a leadership program for music businesses, and member city showcases at Reeperbahn Festival, Eurosonic, and Iceland Airwaves.

Each member city is represented by at least one person who is an employee of the organisation responsible for the City’s membership. Lex Davidson, Strategy Advisor – Culture, is Sydney’s representative. Opportunities are made to encourage other stakeholders from member cities to participate in exchange.

The network meets bi-monthly online and once a year in-person. There are additional meetings for working groups and the network’s board meets 5 times a year.

The board is elected from the representatives in the network. They play a more active role in coordinating the vision and direction of the network, day-to-day operations, and are responsible for reviewing and approving applications to join the network. The board elects a chairperson every 2 years. The chairperson chairs meetings, set the agenda for meetings, coordinates the board, and provides coaching and support to the network’s staff.

Carbon Market Institute

The Carbon Market Institute was established in 2011 and is a peak not-for-profit membership based organisation assisting organisations to understand climate risks and opportunities in a decarbonised economy.

It is a leader in facilitating Australia’s transition to a net zero emissions economy through information, policy, increased understanding on the optimal use of high integrity carbon markets, research, events, capacity building and expertise.

It holds a large-scale high profile annual Australasian Emissions Reduction (AER) Summit, alternating between Sydney and Melbourne.

In 2021 the City was a sponsor of the annual event.

Benefits of membership are to support and lend profile to this peak body, as well as direct engagement and market intelligence opportunities including climate policy direction, corporate climate leadership, and land and climate repair.

Cooks River Alliance

The City elected to discontinue our membership of the Cooks River Alliance a number of years ago as its priorities at the time were not in alignment with City policies and strategies and the Cooks River had minimal impact on the City of Sydney. The City remains in contact with the Alliance and participates in specific projects that have a direct impact on the Local Government Area.

Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program

The City has elected to participate in the preparation of the Outer Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Plan (CMP) which we see as having alignment to strategic directions around water quality and climate adaptation, particularly for sea level rise. While not a specific focus of the CMP, the outcomes of the project may also support plans for swimming in the harbour in the long term.

The Outer Sydney Harbour CMP generally covers the part of Sydney Harbour between the Lane Cove River and Sydney Heads, including Middle Harbour. All councils with foreshore on, or catchments draining to, this part of the harbour are participating, with the exception of Inner West Council and Lane Cove Council who are on the fringe of the study area. State agencies, particularly Sydney Water and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, are also participating in the project. The regional and cross-government nature of the CMP is important as we recognise that the City of Sydney has only minor influence on the overall health of the Harbour, with our coastline heavily impacted by pollutants carried by wind, tides and flows/currents from the upper catchment. There are also efficiencies in this approach as e.g. the assessment of coastal hazards, including sea level rise, will only need to be undertaken once for this part of the harbour and not repeated by each council for their area.

The desired project outcome is a long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coastal zone in outer Sydney Harbour, including improved ecological and social amenity (encompassing both recreational and scenic amenity) and resilience outcomes. There will be actions developed and the success of the OSHCMP will rely on the capacity of project partners to implement these actions. We will become responsible for implementing actions in our area and it is important that these actions are consistent with the City's existing plans and strategies and meet with community acceptance.

The CMP is being prepared fundamentally in accordance with the Coastal Management Act 2016 and the requirements of the NSW Coastal Management Manual. Like with flooding, compliance with the Manual affords exemption from liability protection to Council under section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993. Actions in a gazetted CMP are also eligible for NSW Government grant funding under the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

CEB IT Leadership Council of Midsized Companies - Gartner UK Limited (Corporate Executive Board - Information Technology)

This membership supports midsized organisations through proprietary benchmarking, executive peer networks, and practical leadership guidance. The membership ensures our IT strategy is based on rigorous, evidence-based research, enabling benchmarking, best-practice access, and informed investment decisions that no comparable provider offers. We also rely heavily on Gartner's insights to evaluate technologies, improve operational efficiency, and plan strategically.

CEB HR Leadership Council of Midsized Companies - Gartner UK Limited (Corporate Executive Board - Human Resources)

This membership provides access to leading HR research, benchmarking data, expert advice, and peer networks that help strengthen our HR strategy and effectiveness. It supports our people and culture teams with best practice research, events, seminars and advisory services, and is particularly valuable to our learning and organisational development teams for benchmarking and in driving organisational change and developing learning initiatives. The membership also gives us access to consultants for specific projects.

Gartner is a global research and advisory company providing independent insights, benchmarking, and expert guidance across business, technology, and management. Gartner is the leading authority for IT and HR research and advisory services.

Memo from Kate Deacon, Executive Director Strategic Development and Engagement, Veronica Lee, Executive Director City Services, Paulette Sutherland, Executive Director People, Performance and Technology

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Approved

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