ICLEI Oceania Mayoral Roundtable Meeting Summary: plans to accelerate climate action in 2022

Date: Thursday, 3 February 2022 at 12 to 1pm, AEDT
Host: Chair of the ICLEI Oceania Regional Executive, Cr. Amanda Stone City of Yarra
Participants: See Annex A - Meeting Participants

The ICLEI Oceania Mayoral Roundtable convened the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and delegated representatives of the ICLEI Oceania Members and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) Oceania Steering Committee in a planning session to build on the joint advocacy done in 2021 and get guidance on how we can work together to accelerate action in 2022. This document is a summary of priorities and recommendations from the discussions to inform the collective action of local governments accelerating climate action in 2022.

1. Progress in 2021
Cr Stone shared that the effort of ICLEI Oceania members, GCoM and supporting partners in 2021 made clear that local governments play a vital role in meeting national emissions targets and that local governments are limited in their ability to accelerate climate action due to common barriers including:

- Lack of strong interim target to make change, lack of recognition of the role of local government in meeting national emissions target
- Lack of funding to implement plans and do collaborative regional projects at scale
- Limitations of federal and state policies, legislation and regulations including barriers to innovation and collaboration
- Limited access to expertise
- How we coordinate and work together to accelerate action

The efforts in 2021 culminated in delivery of an ICLEI Oceania Communiqué into COP26 to urge greater national climate action. Cr Stone shared that while the results of COP26 were lukewarm, the Glasgow Pact commits nations to increase ambition at COP27 Sharm-El-Sheik in Nov 2022 and sets multilevel action as a new normal for the second phase of the Paris Agreement (See Annex B - Progress in 2021).

2. Opportunities for 2022
The Australian Federal Election and COP27 Sharm-El-Sheik frame the opportunity for the Australian Federal Government to accelerate climate action through meaningful partnership with local governments and deliver an ambitious 2030 target as part of their Nationally Determined Contribution at COP27 Sharm El-Sheikh.
Participants shared how we could work together to accelerate climate action in 2022 by focusing on: a) what should be included in an ask of the Federal Government, b) what can we work on together to accelerate climate action in 2022 and c) what participants can do to move this forward. Key priorities and recommendations are summarised below:

a) An ask of the Federal Government could include:
   - **Strong interim targets** to drive urgent action that recognise the contribution of local government
   - **Funding** to implement climate action plans in adaptation and mitigation as well as for existing projects, scaling projects, collaborative projects, multi-council initiatives & partnerships as well as regional strategic projects
   - Changes to the **regulatory environment** through:
     - Removing Federal and State policy barriers to collaboration and innovation
     - Changing planning schemes to deliver a climate safe/green future
     - Multilevel policy synchronisation
   - Prioritise **climate justice and equity** including support for communities reliant on fossil fuels to transition as well as support for underserved communities in the transition.
   - Support for **coordination mechanisms** to allow local governments to collaborate on key priorities, change policy outcomes, measures, share information and solutions, showcase action.

b) What can we work on together to accelerate climate action in 2022:
   - Focus on 1-3 major priorities
   - Find a forum or format for meaningful engagement on a regular basis
   - Showcase local government and what is already happening
   - Identify examples of proven scalable projects
   - Identify established projects with successful track record and that are strategic at a regional level
   - Advocacy to all levels of Government
   - Proactive commitment to ICLEI
   - Work with Climate Emergency Australia, Cities Power Partnership etc.
   - Be strategic in the ask for funding, show how it will be used, $200m is not enough.

c) What key partners are doing to accelerate climate action in 2022:

Deputy Chair of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, Lord Mayor Sally Capp of the City of Melbourne stated that CCCLM has a proactive commitment to working with ICLEI Oceania and ALGA. She recommended that we work together to focus on 1-3 major priorities to avoid scattering energy or focus. Access to funding and capacity, coordinating and working
together on key priorities and scaling up proven projects are important priorities as well as showcasing local government and what is already happening. CCCLM is interested to bring projects together for funding as well as support advocacy for real engagement.

President of the Australian Local Government Association, Cr. Linda Scott of the City of Sydney stated that ALGA is focused on increasing resourcing from the Federal Government for local governments to implement climate action plans through: 1) seeking a progressive increase in Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue. 2) Local Government Climate Change Response Partnership Fund of $200 million over four years to help councils support their communities reduce emissions and understand and transition to the future. 3) $200 million per year to help communities mitigate against natural disaster events. Economic modelling shows that this initiative will create 467 new jobs and contribute $73M a year to GDP.

Chair of the ICLEI Oceania Regional Executive Cr. Amanda Stone of Yarra Council stated that ICLEI Oceania is committed to supporting climate action as a vital part of the urban sustainability agenda across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Climate advocacy to date has focused on Australia due to the imperative for action and the potential flow-on of benefits to the Pacific and global community. Moving forward ICLEI Oceania will continue to convene local government leaders to: 1) advocate to Australian political parties to accelerate climate action through meaningful partnership with Australian local governments to support an ambitious 2030 net zero target and NDC at COP27 Sharm El-Sheikh, 2) work to secure funding and address policy barriers from the Federal Government to climate action, 3) strengthen support from the Australian Governments to Pacific island local governments.

On behalf of the Global Covenant of Mayors Oceania, Steve Gawler of ICLEI Oceania affirmed GCoM’s mission to raise the bar on climate by growing, deepening and accelerating climate action in the global race to zero. Steve affirmed that the direction of GCoM will be informed by outcomes of the discussions and taken forward to the next Steering Committee meeting.

4. Next Steps The outcomes will be delivered to the ICLEI Oceania Regional Executive and GCoM Steering Committees including discussion on how to best take forward this work. ICLEI Oceania, ALGA and CCCLM will co-host the Federal Election Mayoral Roundtables in March/April with supporting partners.
Annex A - Meeting Participants

Chair of the ICLEI Oceania Regional Executive, Cr. Amanda Stone of Yarra City Council (Host)
Deputy Chair of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, Lord Mayor Sally Capp of the City of Melbourne
President of Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), Councillor Linda Scott of the City of Sydney
Mayor Tony Bleasdale of Blacktown City Council
Mayor Ann Ferguson of Mount Barker District Council
Mayor Lina Messina of Darebin City Council
Mayor Andrea Metcalf of City of Greater Bendigo
Mayor Sophie Wade of Yarra City Council
Mayor Greg Williamson of Mackay Regional Council
Deputy Mayor Helen Burnet of City of Hobart
Deputy Mayor Trent McCarthy of Darebin City Council
Deputy Mayor Terry James of Cairns Regional Council
Cr. Declan Clausen of City of Newcastle
Cr. Edward Crossland of Yarra City Council
Cr. Tracy Davis of Brisbane City Council
Liz de Chastel, Executive Director, Australian Local Government Association (Observer)
Nicki Colls, City of Melbourne
Dustin Cutler, Marketing and Memberships Officer, ICLEI Oceania (Facilitation Team)
Lee Garnett, Brisbane City Council
Steve Gawler, Acting Regional Director of ICLEI Oceania
Faheem Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Australian Capital Territory Government
Anna Mitchell, Sustainability Director, City of Sydney
Jessica Robbins, Programs and Partnerships Manager, ICLEI Oceania (Facilitation Team)
Deborah Wilkinson, Executive Director, Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (Observer)
Michelle Van Gerrevink, Coordinator Environmental Strategy, Dunedin City Council
## Annex B - Progress in 2021

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<tr>
<th>2021</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Highlight/Outcome</th>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Launch of State of Play Report</td>
<td>Shows that if the emission reductions planned by just 60 of Australia’s 537 local governments were met 88,200 kt CO2 emissions would be reduced, bringing Australia 96% of the way to meet its current target of 28% reduction by 2030.</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>ICLEI and GCoM Joint mission to Canberra</td>
<td>Awareness of the opportunity for local governments to enable greater climate action and the values of ICLEI Oceania and GCoM. Meetings held with Parliament Members: ALP, Greens, Senator/Independent as well as EU Ambassador, British High Commissioner, Australia’s Ambassador for the Environment and the Department of Industry, Science Energy and Resources.</td>
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| June | ALGA National General Assembly | ALGA supports call for next Australian government to support communities in their climate change response by:  
- investing in a Local Government Climate Change Partnership Fund for $200million per annum over 4 years.  
- targeted disaster mitigation program at the level of $200 million per annum for four years to strengthen community resilience response and recovery costs. |
| June | ALGA and ICLEI Oceania MOU signed | To collaborate on awareness raising and promotion for climate action, capacity building & linking into international campaigns such as GCoM and Cities Race to Zero/Resilience. |
| Aug  | Launch of Australian Local Government Climate Review | Analysis of climate change actions, barriers and opportunities facing councils and communities. |
| Oct  | Australian Local Government Leaders Acceleration Action at COP26 Virtual Forum | Hosted by ICLEI, ALGA & CCCLM and supporters to urge greater national climate action through meaningful partnership with the Federal government to deliver on a national net zero target and improve adaptation and resilience for the entire Australian society, industry and economy as soon as possible. This lead to adoption of the ICLEI Oceania Communique to COP26 to accelerate climate action |
| Nov  | COP26 | ICLEI Oceania Communique shared into COP26 via the ICLEI Multilevel Action Pavilion. Lord Mayor of Hobart called on the Australian Government to work with local governments to design an emissions reduction program. 22 Local governments across Oceania joined the Cities Race to Zero joining the existing 37 ICLEI members & 45 GCoM members who are champions for climate action |
Annex C - 2022 opportunities for accelerating climate action

2022 Events - opportunities to accelerate climate action

International

- ICLEI World Congress, Sweden 11-13 May
- World Urban Forum, Poland 26-30 June
- High Level Political Forum on SDGs, NYC 5-15 July
- UNFCCC COP27, Egypt 7-18 Nov

Australian

- ICLEI Mayoral Roundtables with Federal Election candidates, Virtual, March/April tbc
- Aust. Federal Election April-May tbc
- ALGA NGA, Canberra, 19-22 June
- CANA Climate Conference, Canberra, June tbc
- Federal Budget, 29 March 2022
- Better Futures Australia, Canberra Aug tbc