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Message from the interim Regional Director, Kobie Brand

As we head toward COP 30 in Belém—where the leaders of the world will decide how to stay true to the 1.5°C promise made in Paris a decade ago—every decision we make, every day, counts. While it's not yet confirmed whether COP 31 will be held in Australia or elsewhere, we must prepare our cities, towns, lands, and the entire Oceania region as if the world will move from Belém to our shores for the next historic step after this year's "people's" and "nature" COP in Brazil.

In just 18 months, Australians may have the chance to show the world whether we're leading—or lagging—in preparing our coastal cities for rising seas, ensuring a just energy transition across Oceania, and tackling droughts, food insecurity, and other climate-driven challenges. Make no mistake: when the world comes to our region, it will be to see how we are dealing with loss and damage, protecting livelihoods and land, unlocking climate finance, and driving bold, united action across the Pacific.

ICLEI's work in Oceania has never been more urgent—and with the global spotlight possibly turning our way, we have a rare chance to scale our efforts beyond anything this region has seen before.

But even if COP 31 takes place elsewhere, the science is clear: whether the world is watching or not, we must act. We owe it to ourselves, to each other, and to the incredible life we share our lands, shores and oceans with—because our future, and that of humanity, depends on what we do in this defining decade.

I am really excited to share that ICLEI Oceania is establishing a sub-regional Pacific Island office in Suva, Fiji to ramp up support for our SIDS nations—while also expanding partnerships and driving systemic change with our Member cities and towns across the region.

We invite you to join us on this fast-paced, high-stakes journey. There's no going back. The future is coming—whether it's thriving and liveable or shaped by today's business-as-usual approach is up to all of us. Together, we can—and must—build a better tomorrow for all.

—Kobie Brand

Written while on mission in South Korea, where ICLEI's global leadership is gathering to strengthen our collective work—to deepen commitments, move faster, act together, and push forward with greater determination toward a future where we finally make peace with nature. As the UN Secretary-General has called it, this is the defining task of our century—and it's one we must rise to, now.



New REXCOM to guide Oceania through 2025 and beyond

The ICLEI Oceania Regional Executive Committee has been strengthened by an expanded new leadership.

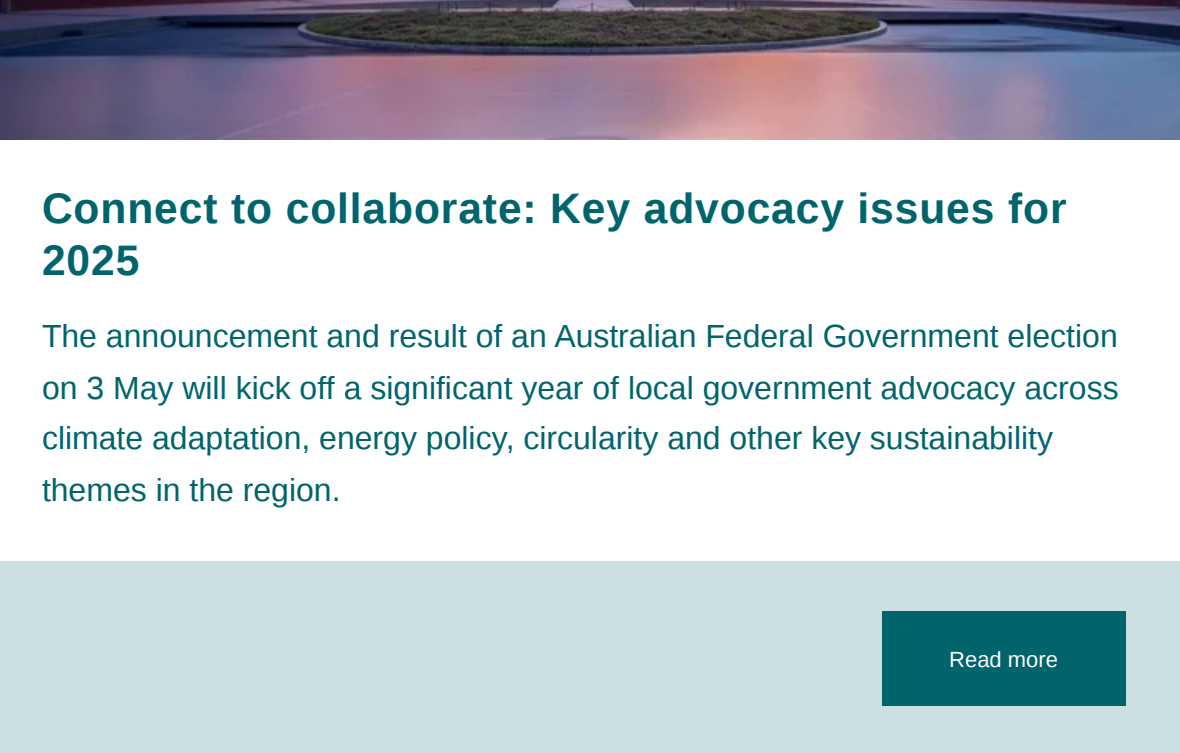
The first quarter has been a time of significant governance activity for the Oceania Regional Executive Committee (REXCOM), with 2024 election changes in NSW and Victoria in Australia requiring new office bearers to offer local guidance in our region.

ICLEI is very pleased to announce the appointment of the following incoming leaders:

- Mayor Moira Were - City of Oriskany, Australia
- Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk - City of Newcastle, Australia
- Acting CEO & Special Administrator Chairman, Mr Tevita Boseiwaqa - Suva City Council, Fiji

We are also pleased to announce that at this new REXCOM's first meeting, Mayor Were was voted to be the Oceania appointment to ICLEI's Global Executive Committee (GEXCOM). Both the incumbent and new REXCOM leaders bring rich experience in public affairs and have much to offer to steer ICLEI's local strategy. The three new representatives also bring significant expertise across a range of areas like city futures, community affairs, not-for-profit management, as well as a deep knowledge of Fiji, where ICLEI Oceania has plans to establish an adjunct Pacific office to its Melbourne base.

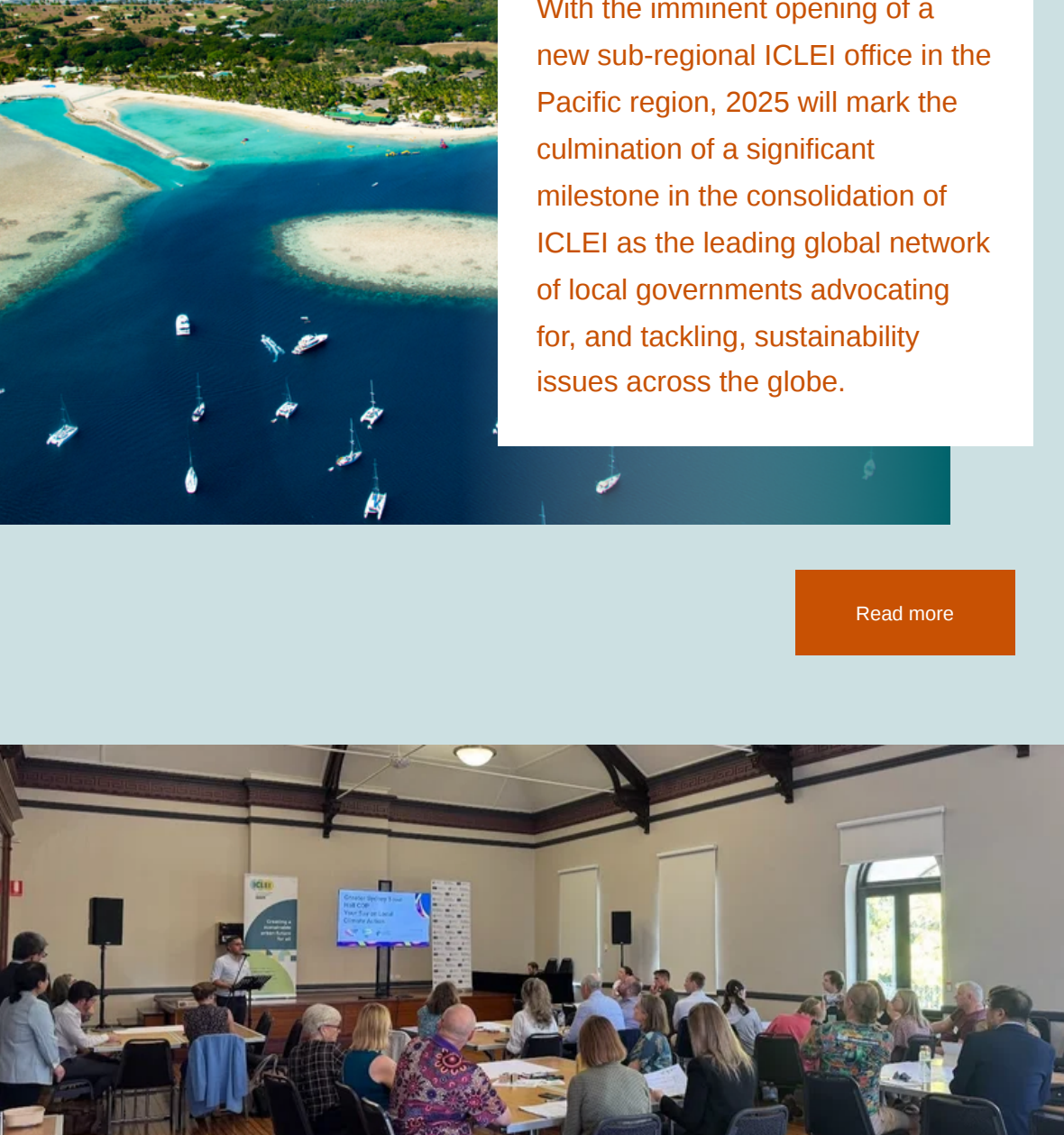
We would like to thank the outgoing REXCOM members, HY William Chan and Amanda Stone for their support to the work of ICLEI, most notably in Australia. They were instrumental in key achievements like inputting into a revised ICLEI Global Strategic Vision; advocating for ICLEI Oceania at key international events and fora like ICLEI's World Congress in Sao Paulo in June 2024, as well as supporting our Australian advocacy work with strategic partners like the Australian Local Government Association and peak bodies across Australia.



Connect to collaborate: Key advocacy issues for 2025

The announcement and result of an Australian Federal Government election on 3 May will kick off a significant year of local government advocacy across climate adaptation, energy policy, circularity and other key sustainability themes in the region.

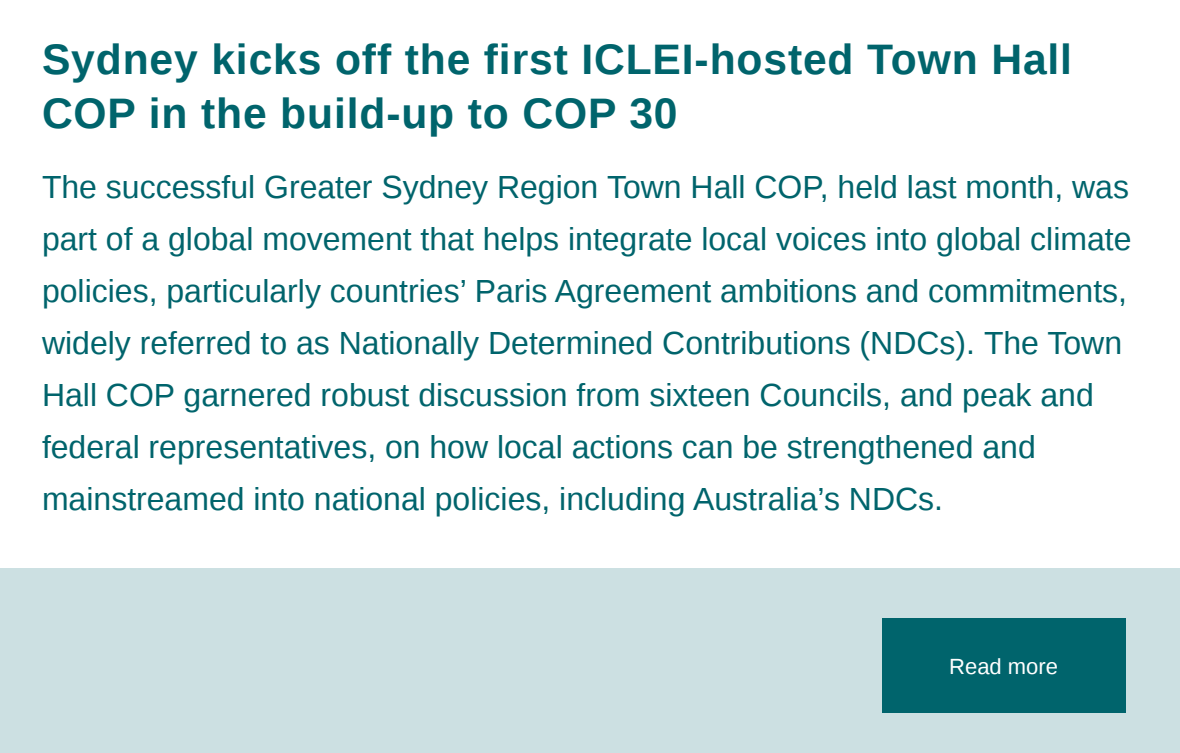
[Read more](#)



ICLEI Oceania delivering local value with forthcoming Pacific office opening

With the imminent opening of a new sub-regional ICLEI office in the Pacific region, 2025 will mark the culmination of a significant milestone in the consolidation of ICLEI as the leading global network of local governments advocating for, and tackling, sustainability issues across the globe.

[Read more](#)



Sydney kicks off the first ICLEI-hosted Town Hall COP in the build-up to COP 30

The successful Greater Sydney Region Town Hall COP, held last month, was part of a global movement that helps integrate local voices into global climate policies, particularly countries' Paris Agreement ambitions and commitments, widely referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Town Hall COP garnered robust discussion from sixteen Councils, and peak and federal representatives, on how local actions can be strengthened and mainstreamed into national policies, including Australia's NDCs.

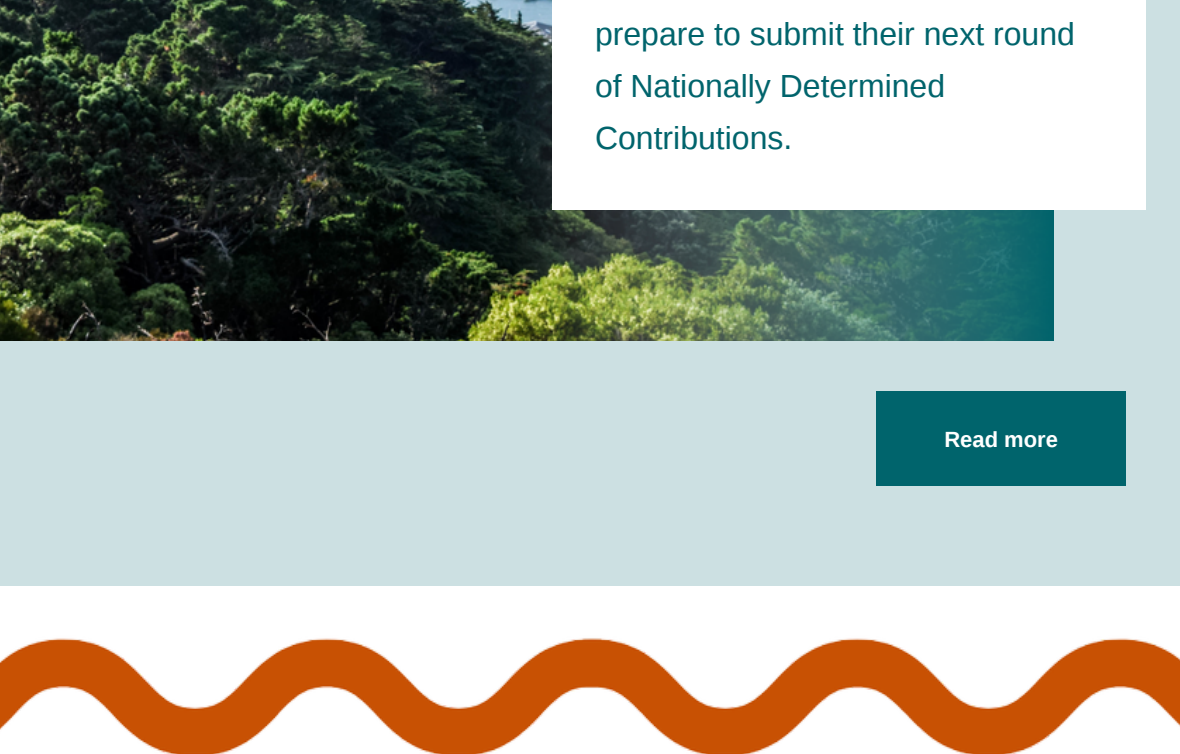
[Read more](#)



ICLEI Oceania's local climate leadership on the global stage in Korea

ICLEI Oceania is proud to have been part of the global conversation at the ICLEI Global Executive Committee (GEXCOM) meeting and the World Local Government Climate Summit (WLGCS) in Gyeonggi Province, South Korea, championing the role of cities and regions in delivering real change. Our region was represented by Hobart and Ville de Punaiaua in French Polynesia.

[Read more](#)



The Road to Belém: Paving the way for local government leadership and action beyond COP 30

The 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 30) will take place in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. This will be a pivotal moment as countries prepare to submit their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions.

[Read more](#)

Dr Cathy Oke named a lead author for landmark IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

Long time ICLEI champion, Dr Cathy Oke, has been selected as a Lead Author for the upcoming Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, set for release in March 2027. She joins an esteemed group of ninety-seven scientists and urban practitioners from five continents selected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as Authors, Coordinating Lead Authors, and Review Editors of the report, alongside four other Australians and two New Zealanders representing the Oceania region.

[Read more](#)

ICLEI-Kaohsiung Community of Practice (ComP) for Climate Neutral and Smart Cities

ICLEI Oceania welcomes closer ties for our Members like Newcastle and Brisbane with ICLEI centres of excellence located across Asia.

[Read more about the Kaohsiung ICLEI Community of Practice here](#)



Latest thinking about cities and nature: The 3-30-300 approach draws significant interest from cities across Oceania

Over 150 attendees participated in a deep dive, led by ICLEI and RMIT, into rethinking how to measure nature in our cities

Take a listen to this informative webinar featuring experts in the field discussing science-based methodologies that allow for standardised biodiversity reporting that also take into account local and regional contexts and capacities. Key approaches and initiatives discussed include the 3-30-300, a recently proposed metric that establishes minimum standards for access to nature in cities for human well-being. Find out more about the global CitiesWithNature platform, which cities can use to access tools and resources, and track their contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework.

[Watch the Webinar recording: Measuring biodiversity progress and impact: Exploring the 3-30-300 role and other science-based approaches](#)

Regional Communities of Practice: Supporting Councils to protect and enhance biodiversity and implement nature-based climate solutions

ICLEI Oceania provides a variety of programs and support services to Councils to help them protect and enhance biodiversity, and implement nature-based climate solutions, as part of our Climate and Nature suite of programs.

ICLEI Oceania is now accepting expressions of interest from Australian Councils for participation in low-cost Regional Communities of Practice. Register now to participate in either a general CitiesWithNature Community of Practice or a more focused Coastal Community of Practice group.

More information and to register, click [here](#) or email admin.oceania@iclei.org

Wealth of tools available for cities: CitiesWithNature launches three new guides

Cities are at the forefront of tackling global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. To support urban leaders and citizens, CitiesWithNature has launched a suite of new guides: Nature for Urban Resilience: Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature for Cities; and Biodiverse Finance in Your City. Each guide includes actionable insights, case studies and practical tools tailored for city contexts. Whether you're a decision-maker, planner or advocate, these resources are designed to help you build greener, healthier and more resilient cities.

Read more: [Tools And Resources - CitiesWithNature](#)
Join: [CitiesWithNature](#) or [RegionsWithNature](#)

NEW COURSE JUST LAUNCHED | Empowering urban communities: People-centred decision making for nature-based solutions

This course is designed to equip urban planners, local government officials, biodiversity practitioners and community leaders with the knowledge, skills and tools to build resilient urban environments by recentering people in the management of urban nature. Through interdisciplinary exploration, we examine how cities can harness the power of community engagement, participatory governance, and inclusive planning processes to foster sustainable and resilient urban ecosystems. Hosted by Learn With ICLEI Africa, this FREE online course explores innovative approaches and case studies that empower communities and integrate people at the forefront of nature-based solutions for the urban environments.

Learn more & enrol here: [Empowering urban communities: People-centred decision making for nature-based solutions](#)



CitiesWithWater PHOTO COMPETITION

Water is the foundation of life, yet cities across the globe face a stark reality – either too little, too much, or too dirty water.

Enter our global photography competition: Too little, too much, too dirty

How do cities respond to water that is too scarce, too abundant or too polluted? Capture your vision of the water challenges facing our cities!

For World Water Day, ICLEI and the World Water Council invite you to share your viewpoint on water resources by participating in an international photography competition, as part of the CitiesWithWater initiative. Designed in parallel with a webinar series, this contest aims to broaden the discussion on local and innovative initiatives that tackle water-related challenges, beyond the technical and political realms. It also seeks to highlight how imagery can be powerful and reveal new perspectives on complex systems and human interactions.

To find out more about this competition and the CitiesWithWater webinar series, you can [click here](#) or contact luka.dreyer@iclei.org

The Berlin Urban Nature Pact: Empowering cities to transition from pledges to practice

The Berlin Urban Nature Pact (BUNP) seeks to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery in cities worldwide by 2030. It focuses on the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and its action plan.

BUNP is currently enrolling new cities, with the first phase of enrollment concluding at the end of May 2025. Signatory cities will need to meet a minimum of 15 of 28 SMART targets across key areas like species and habitats, water management and blue infrastructure, soil health, and food and agriculture.

[Read more](#)

Join us at Daring Cities 2025 and influence global climate negotiations

Under the theme "Stronger national climate plans through multilevel action," Daring Cities 2025 is the sixth edition of this annual event co-organized by ICLEI and the Federal City of Bonn, Germany. As we move toward COP 30 in Belém, Brazil, Daring Cities 2025 will serve as a pivotal platform for local and regional governments to influence global climate negotiations. Join the Daring Cities virtual forum weekly webinars from July through to September.

Find out what's coming up at [Daring Cities 2025](#)

Key events

United Nations Oceans Conference: Nice, France, 9-13 June 2025

Visit our ICLEI Oceania website - Visit our global ICLEI website

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