

**Washington DC, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2022**

*Leading smart city thought leader announcement:*

Washington DC based Smart Cities Council (SCC), the world's longest serving smart cities organization for more than ten years, today announced that after more than six years Founder and Executive Director of Smart Cities Council Australia New Zealand, Adam Beck, will be leaving his role effective Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Smart Cities Council Australia New Zealand is growing, with Jannat Maqbool being appointed as Interim Executive Director and Iman Ghaffari joining in the new role of Member Relations, Partnerships & Engagement. Robyn Francis, Global Engagement Coordinator, will return from Maternity Leave on 4th April 2022.

Jannat has served as the New Zealand Director of Smart Cities Council New Zealand for the past two years and brings an extensive amount of experience around stakeholder engagement and capacity development.

Smart Cities Council is one of the preeminent thought leaders and drivers in Australia, New Zealand, India and North America, with hundreds of cities, service providers and technology companies participating to accelerate smart city projects that deliver workability, liveability and sustainability. In line with its industry sector, Smart Cities Council has strong growth trajectory globally, and will continue to develop and support project acceleration with such digital tools as the **Readiness Challenge**, **Smart Cities Academy** and **Smart Cities Activator**. Its world acclaimed **Smart Cities Week** will re-launch in Denver in May 2022.

**Comments on the news:**

“Adam has made a unique contribution to the advancement of the Smart Cities movement in the last 6 years and leaves Smart Cities Council as the leading organisation globally for thought leadership and engagement around Smart Cities. A respected thought leader and sought-after speaker and subject matter expert, the entire Smart Cities community thanks Adam for his passion, tireless work ethic, vision, and achievements”, said Phil Bane, founder and Managing Director of Smart Cities Council”

“It is a great pleasure to acknowledge Adam’s contribution by conferring upon him the inaugural honour of Life Membership of Smart Cities Council, and we look forward to Adam remaining a part of our Smart Cities Council family in the future as he continues his professional journey.”

Adam Beck, added “My time at the SCC has been life changing, both professionally and personally. I have been part of an incredibly supportive organisation that trusted me deeply, with guidance from our membership, to go forward and do anything that needed to be done to advance our mission. Above all, liveability, workability and sustainability were to be the guiding pillars. I have upheld this mission under my stewardship and am very proud of our collective impact.

The Smart Cities Council is going from strength to strength, and it continues to be a force for good in helping shape cities sustainably. I look forward to seeing it's impact continue for what is the defining decade ahead.”

Ends.

### **About the Smart Cities Council**

The Smart Cities Council, the world's largest smart cities network, envisions a world where innovation, technology and data leverages smart, sustainable cities with high-quality living and high-quality jobs. The **Smart Cities Council** serves as an objective and neutral network for sharing knowledge and accelerating projects. A leader in smart cities capacity development, the Council is comprised of partners and advisors who have generated \$2.7 trillion in annual revenue and contributed to more than 11,000 smart cities projects. Council's programs include:

- A quarterly Readiness Challenge where cities submit projects to qualify for the Readiness Program
- Smart Cities Activator, the only online collaborative planning platform where cities submit their projects, see other city projects and plan projects
- Smart Cities Academy, the world's premier smart city certification for Smart Cities practitioners with in-depth education
- Smart Cities Chronicles, the world's premier podcast about smart city developments -with speakers from all around the world
- Future of Place - an innovative guide to building future cities, compiled, curated, and produced by smart city experts globally.
- Smart Cities Week - the world's premier smart city conference

For more information about the Smart Cities Council visit: [www.smartcitiescouncil.com](http://www.smartcitiescouncil.com)