

ITEM 12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**FERAL CAT MANAGEMENT PROJECT (S103146)**

1. By Councillor Doutney

Question

In regard to the City's Feral Cat Management Project which commenced in October 2015:

1. What measures does the project engage to manage feral cats?
2. Are there targets or goals associated with the project? How will the success of the project be measured?
3. How was this project developed? Who was consulted as part of the development?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. The City's Companion Animals Liaison Officer has planned two educational workshops for social housing residents and pensioners, to educate them about the importance of de-sexing owned cats, keeping cats indoors, cat healthcare and more. These workshops are currently scheduled to start in February 2016.
2. Under the scope of this project, the City aims to rehome approximately 40 suitable cats/kittens and have approximately 30 feral cats de-sexed following the educational workshops organised by the City's Companion Animals Liaison Officer. The success of the project will be measured through qualitative and quantitative analysis of the feral cat-related complaints received by the City before, during and after the project.
3. The project was developed by the City's Companion Animals Liaison Officer. The Office of Local Government, City Rangers' Quality Co-ordinator and Director City Operations were consulted prior to applying for the grant. The Cat Protection Society, Inner City Strays, Community Cat Carers, and Alexandria Veterinary Hospital were all consulted and have collaborated with Council.

STREET ART POLICY (S103146)

2. By Councillor Doutney

Question

In a response to a Question on Notice in April 2015 about the forthcoming Street Art Policy, the Lord Mayor stated: *"The Street Art and Graffiti review is currently being finalised, noting that street art raises many complex issues about which there are greatly divergent views. Staff are committed to a carefully considered position and avoiding hasty implementation."*

Can the Lord Mayor please provide an update on when the Street Art Policy will be coming to Council?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Please refer to my answer to Question on Notice 15.

WOOLLOOMOOLOO MEN'S SHED (S103146)

3. By Councillor Doutney

Question

For some time, the City has had plans to build a Community Shed (Men's Shed) in Bourke Street Park in Woolloomooloo. In the Round Two allocations of the 2015/16 Grants and Sponsorship program, the Bourke Street Community Garden has been recommended for a grant allocation to expand their garden and install new planters, a space for chickens and a gardening shed.

1. Can the Lord Mayor confirm that all of the fenced space in Bourke Street Park will now be available to be used by the community garden, or are there other plans to fit a second community facility into this space?
2. What location is the City now considering for a Woolloomooloo-based Community/Men's Shed?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The landowner, NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), has declined to give landowner's consent for the Men's Shed. As a result, the City has withdrawn the Development Application for this use.

City staff will now consider the future of both the shed and the use of the space. Staff will consult with representatives of the Bourke Street Community Garden.

T2 BUILDING 1-5 FLINDERS STREET (S103148)

4. By Councillor Forster

Question

When was the T2 building last occupied and what rent was the tenant paying? Was this full commercial rent or was it subsidised? What is the estimated current full commercial rent for the property?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The T2 Building (1-5 Flinders Street) was last occupied by Reverse Garbage from 10 July 2010 to 4 May 2012 (part basement and ground floor) and the University of NSW from 15 July 2010 to 31 March 2013 (Level 1).

Total rent paid by Reverse Garbage was \$52,583 plus GST and total rent paid by the University of NSW was \$71,427 plus GST.

An independent valuation determined the rental applicable to each space having regard to the short term nature, the condition of the premises and the passive non-commercial nature of the uses.

There is no estimated current commercial rental for this property. The building cannot be occupied in its current state due the need for structural works to be undertaken which form part of the planned capital works project.

COMPLAINTS MADE TO CITY OF SYDNEY (S103148)

5. By Councillor Forster

Question

In a letter to the CEO of the Office of Local Government, dated 20 October 2015, about the regulation of commercial waste collection in Sydney, the CEO states that, in the last 12 months, the City received over 550 complaints relating to commercial bins and over 174 offensive noise complaints due to contractors collecting waste outside the approved times.

How many complaints a year does the City receive in total? Can the Lord Mayor please provide a breakdown of the complaints by area of City operations?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

In the period from July 2014 to June 2015, 66,423 complaints were logged through the City's Pathway processing system, across the following categories:

Animals/Pest Control (2,161); Building Compliance and Construction Regulation (4,154); Community and Corporate (6,894); Waste Services and Bins (17,276); Graffiti and Bill Posters (4,571); Health and Environmental Issues (1,738); Noise (1,637); Parking, Traffic and Transport Management (14,442); Roads Streets and Footpaths (10,408); Trees and Parks (3,142).

In the last financial year, the City's Call Centre and One Stop Shop Service received, managed and responded to the following number of community queries and requests: 266,361 phone calls, 4,933 emails and 109,969 counter transactions.

CORROBOREE FESTIVAL FUNDING (S103148)

6. By Councillor Forster

Question

Since its establishment in 2013, how much funding (monetary and VIK) has the City given the now defunct Corroboree Festival?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

On 16 September 2013, Council resolved to support the inaugural Corroboree Festival which took place in November 2013 with a sponsorship grant of \$50,000 cash only.

On 25 August 2014, Council unanimously approved cash sponsorship for the Corroboree Festival of \$100,000 together with VIK of \$35,000 per annum for financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16;

Bangarra Dance Company was nominated as the auspicing body to administer the grant in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Table – City of Sydney Sponsorship Support.

Event	Cash sponsorship	Value In-kind	Total Allocated	Total Used
Corroboree 2013	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Corroboree 2014	\$100,000	\$35,000	\$135,000	\$135,000
Corroboree 2015 (Festival did not proceed)	\$100,000	\$35,000	\$135,000	\$0
		Total	\$320,000	\$185,000

Following the successful delivery of the 2014 Corroboree Festival, event organisers advised the City, 1 July 2015, that they would not be proceeding with future Corroboree Festivals, given the limited NSW Government funding for the next event.

Creative City staff met with the Creative Director of Corroboree to investigate options for an alternative delivery format or a future event for 2016. It was confirmed at this meeting that there would be no future Corroboree Event.

NON-RESIDENTIAL VOTING ROLL (S103148)

7. By Councillor Forster

Question

How does the new non-residential roll voting legislation apply to barristers' chambers? Will each individual member of the chamber be entitled to inclusion on the roll?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

More information would be required on the way in which each barrister occupies their chambers before entitlement could be decided. Eligibility details can be found on the website cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/register

PARK CAFÉ REDFERN OVAL (S103148)

8. By Councillor Forster

Question

I understand that the lease for Park Café at Redfern Oval has expired and the City has closed the premises for the period of the tender application process for new operators. Can the Lord Mayor confirm the closure of the café and its likely duration?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The Café has been closed to enable the City to carry out work to increase size of the café premises, which is scheduled to be completed in late November 2015. The existing café is quite small, with an internal area of approximately 57 square metres. The expansion of the café will better utilise the existing area within the northern end of the Redfern Oval Grandstand. As the premises are being expanded, it is not possible for an operator to trade while the works are undertaken.

The upgrade works are expected to be completed shortly. The City has commenced an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to source a new café operator. Following completion of the EOI, the premises are expected to be leased to an operator who will commence fitout works and trade thereafter. An estimated café operation date is difficult to determine, as the new operator would be expected to undertake a Development Application process for the new café fitout.

PARKING PERMITS IN AREA 15 (S103142)

9. By Councillor Scott

Question

Broken down by the number of residents receiving 15, 30, or 45 visitor parking permits, how many residents have been issued visitor parking permits in Area 15 in the first 12 months of operation?

Since visitor parking permits have been introduced in Area 15, how many visitor parking permits have been used?

Since visitor parking permits have been introduced in Area 15, have there been any reports of misuse of visitor parking permits in Area 15? If so, how many reports of misuse have been made?

When were business parking permits introduced in Area 15?

Since being introduced, how many business parking permits have been issued in Area 15 to 30 October 2015?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Business and Visitor Parking Permits were introduced in Woolloomooloo, East Sydney, Darlinghurst and Paddington in mid-2014. Since that time, approximately 130 households in Area 15 have obtained visitor parking permits. There are no business permits currently on issue in Area 15.

The City's Policy does not require residents to report each use of a visitor permit to the City. Any business, visitor or resident permit observed by a City Ranger is checked for validity. A search of the City's records system did not find any reports of misuse.

A detailed breakdown of permits by quantity requires substantial interrogation of the City's Pathway database, and was not available at the time of preparation of this response. However, it is estimated that approximately 45% of households in Area 15 with visitor permits have been issued with 15 permits, 15% with 20 permits, and 40% with 30 permits.

NON-RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS REGISTER (S103142)

10. By Councillor Scott

Question

The City has recently distributed information regarding changes to the Non-Residential and Business Register.

Broken down by cost of design, printing, and distribution, what was the cost of this letter and associated flyer?

How many letters and associated flyers were printed? How many letters and flyers were distributed?

What other costs, broken down by category, have been incurred regarding the preparation of the Non-Residential and Business Register?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

As advised at the last meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, these matters will be addressed shortly, by way of CEO Update.

FIG AND WATTLE STREET DEPOT (S103142)

11. By Councillor Scott

Question

When will the Remediation Action Plan for the Fig and Wattle Streets Depot be complete?

Will the Remediation Action Plan be made available to the public?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

On 26 October this year, Council resolved to progress toward the appointment of an Environment Protection Authority Accredited Site Auditor to advise on and oversee the preparation of a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) that could support a range of future uses, including childcare, education and residential.

The City's appointed environmental consultant, JBS&G, have already commenced the process to complete additional and updated surveys, sampling and testing of the site and developing the RAP.

A NSW Environmental Protection Authority accredited Site Auditor will be appointed in December. The auditor's role is to independently peer review the City's environmental consultants' work including the detailed site assessment reports, the proposed RAP and Environmental Management Plan for the site.

At this early stage, an indicative timeframe for completion is June 2016 and this timeline will be firmed as each stage progresses.

The Site Auditor will confirm that the extent of contamination has been appropriately determined and that the proposed RAP is appropriate to make the site suitable for the intended land use. The development of an architectural reference scheme to support a range of future uses including residential, childcare and education will inform the remediation strategy.

The City has met and outlined this direction to the Environmental Protection Authority and will ensure the Authority continues to be updated.

The Remediation Action Plan and Site Audit Statement will be a matter of public record as part of the planning process.

SOLAR PANELS (S103142)

12. By Councillor Scott

Question

Since 2014, has the City refused a development application or imposed a condition to prevent the installation of solar panels on private properties?

If so, how many?

If so, please provide a breakdown of this information by year and suburb.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Not all solar panels require development consent. Under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007, solar panels can be installed in certain circumstances without the need for development consent.

Where development consent is required for solar panels, they are assessed against controls contained in the Sydney Development Control Plan 2012.

In general, the controls provide that solar panels may be located on a roof plane visible from the public domain where they are parallel to the roof plane, there is minimal change to the structure or fabric of the roof, they are removable and do not exceed 25% of the area of the roof plane. They may not be acceptable if they result in adverse impacts on the visual qualities of the host building or the streetscape.

Information on applications regarding the inclusion of solar panels is not discreetly collected and, as such, these applications are not readily identifiable.

Few proposals have been refused or subject of a condition to prevent the installation of solar panels, but considerable staff resources would need to be committed in order to provide the information requested. This would involve reviewing the applications and drawings of up to 4,894 development determinations (4,640 consents, 254 refusals) issued since the beginning of 2014.

CHILDCARE CENTRES AND PLACES (S103142)

13. By Councillor Scott

Question

Since the publication of the City of Sydney Child Care Needs Analysis 2013, how many development applications for new childcare centres have been approved by the City?

Since the publication of the City of Sydney Child Care Needs Analysis 2013, how many spaces have been created in new childcare centres in the City?

Are there any development applications for new childcare centres yet to be determined by the City?

If so, how many and how many spaces are projected to be created if these development applications are approved?

On average, how many childcare places are actually created in comparison with the number of childcare places approved for development?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Since the publication of the Child Care Needs Analysis 2013, there have been 28 development applications for new childcare centres approved from July 2013 until 30 June 2015.

Since the publication of the Child Care Needs Analysis 2013, there have been 12 new centres that have begun operating, creating a total of 804 new child care places as at 30 June 2015. Of these completed centres, 7 had been approved after 1 July 2013, creating 510 places (63.4% of created places since July 2013).

As at 30 June 2015, there were 9 child care development applications lodged and yet to be determined.

If these developments were approved and then completed, a projected total of 754 additional places could be created.

Of the 28 Development Applications approved to 30 June 2015, 7 have been completed, 6 have commenced construction and 15 have not yet commenced construction. This represents a total of 1,996 places approved since July 2013, of which 510 have been completed, 397 are under construction and 1,089 have not yet commenced.

Operators may choose not to operate all places approved and constructed. For example, as at 30 June 2015, there were a total of 97 centres with 5,280 child care places that have received a service approval by the Department of Education and Communities. However, the number of operating places was 5,081, representing a net difference of 199 places. More than 96% of service approved places have been actively operating as at 30 June 2015. The difference between service approved places (5,280) and operating places (5,081) relates to operational and resourcing decisions made by child care providers.

LIBRARIES (S103142)

14. By Councillor Scott

Question

The City's library network was reviewed by the State Library in 2012, with 53 recommendations arising from the review.

How many recommendations of the review have been implemented?

What was the cost of the review?

When was the review delivered to staff?

Has the review been released publicly?

Can Councillors have a copy of the review?

Has the City commissioned a long-term library strategy?

If so, when was it commissioned and at what cost?

If so, when will the long-term library strategy be presented to Council for consideration?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

A Library Strategy is being developed by staff. 69% of the 53 State Library recommendations have already been implemented or are ongoing phased delivery. The review is part of the free State Library of NSW service provided to libraries across the State. Managers, along with State Library staff, briefed all staff on 2-3 October 2013. The recommendations are the basis for regular discussion across the network and are part of the unit's business plan and work plans.

Councillors can view a copy upon request. Please contact Ann Hoban, Director City Life.

STREET ART POLICY REPORT (S103142)

15. By Councillor Scott

Question

Has a report been commissioned on the forthcoming Street Art Policy?

If so, how much?

If so, who conducted the report?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

As advised in the Council Meeting on 8 December 2014:

In 2013, the City commissioned, via an open competitive process, a consultant team from the University of Sydney to create a Register of Street Art and Murals in the LGA; to undertake research into legislation, policy, process and programs around street art and graffiti; and to provide recommendations for policy review and implementation.

The following have now been completed;

- Register of Street Art and Murals in the LGA,
- A Report outlining research into legislation, policy, process and programs around street art and graffiti; including recommendations for policy review and implementation.

The fee for the entire consultancy (including the Register of Street Art and Murals) was \$71,328.40.

Recommendations made by the consultants have been used to inform a Street Art report which is being prepared by City staff. The Street Art report is also taking into consideration extensive internal consultation with the relevant Business Units in Council, as well as further external advice. As has been noted, street art raises many complex issues about which there are greatly divergent views. These issues are being fully worked through. In particular, staff are continuing to resolve planning, compliance and legal questions. This has included seeking advice from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and consultation with other Councils regarding these matters.

Staff are continuing to work through issues and advice in order to ensure a carefully considered position is arrived at.

POCKET PARKS (S103142)

16. By Councillor Scott

Question

Since 2004, broken down by year, how many of the City's pocket parks have been upgraded?

Since 2004, broken down by year, which of the City's pocket parks have been upgraded and at what cost for each?

Broken down by year, how many of the City's pocket parks are projected to be upgraded over the forthcoming four years?

Broken down by year, which of the City's pocket parks are projected to be upgraded over the forthcoming four years?

Broken down by year, what is the projected cost for upgrading each of the City's pocket parks over the forthcoming four years?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

In many instances, our small parks are the closest open space for residents to enjoy outdoor recreation opportunities. Since 2004, the City has completed many major upgrades to parks ranging from large scale redevelopment such as the Redfern Oval upgrade, Paddington Reservoir Gardens and Sydney Park Wetlands to the creation of Pirrama Park.

Complementary to this has been the well-received small parks and playground upgrade program. A range of small scale capital improvements are undertaken in this program, including replacement and upgrade of play equipment, softfall, park furniture, shade structures, paths, lighting, tree planting, landscape planting and turf works. Additional pocket parks have also been provided as development contributions. Details of sites completed and in planning are as follows;

Year completed	Suburb	Locations	Approx. Cost
2015	Pymont	James Watkinson Reserve	\$ 72,000.00
	Sydney	Lang Park	\$ 42,000.00
	Miller Point	Munn Reserve	\$ 2,400,000.00
	Redfern	Chelsea Playground	\$ 1,000,000.00
	Forest Lodge	John Street Remediation and wall	\$ 1,800,000.00
	Waterloo	Mary Obrien Reserve	\$ 3,500,000.00

Year completed	Suburb	Locations	Approx. Cost
	Erskineville	Harry Noble Reserve Playground	\$ 115,000.00
	Erskineville	Solander Park	\$ 43,000.00
	Newtown	O'Connell Street Reserve	\$ 600,000.00
	Surry Hills	Fred Miller Reserve	\$ 50,000.00
	Glebe	Glebe Library	\$ 19,500.00
	Pymont	Maybank Park	\$ 17,000.00
	Rosebery	Sweetacres Park	\$ *2,000,000.00
	Green Square	Woolwash Park extension	\$ *400,000.00
	Green Square	Buming Park	\$ *500,000.00
	Green Square	Rope Walk Parks (1 & 2)	\$ 2,000,000.00 *
	East Sydney	O'Briens Lane Park	\$ 300,000.00
	Redfern	Reconciliation Park	\$ 1,000,000.00
2014	Glebe	MJ Dougherty Reserve	\$ 59,500.00
	Alexandria	Bamal Way	\$ 1,088,267.00
	Woolloomooloo	Walla Mulla Reserve	\$ 1,279,182.00
	Erskineville	Green Bans Park	\$ 30,000.00
	Rushcutters Bay	Arthur Reserve	\$ 10,000.00
	Paddington	George Clark Park	\$ 40,000.00
	Paddington	Napier St Closure	\$ 1,327,000.00
	Redfern	Edmund Resche Reserve	\$ 126,000.00
	Rosebery	Janet Beirne Reserve	\$ 1,000,000.00
	Erskineville	Gowrie Street	\$ 15,000.00
	Ultimo	Mary Ann Street Park	\$ 127,110.00
	Redfern	Cooper Street	\$ 27,000.00
	Rushcutters Bay	Bayswater Road Open space	\$ 350,000.00

Year completed	Suburb	Locations	Approx. Cost
	Glebe	St Helens Community Gardens	\$ 60,000.00
2013	Sydney	Town Hall Precinct (C)	\$ 10,000.00
	Chippendale	Daniel Street Reserve	\$ 25,000.00
	Ultimo	Elizabeth Healy Reserve	\$ 23,500.00
	Redfern	Kettle Street Reserve	\$ 14,000.00
	Waterloo	Corning Park	\$ 17,000.00
	Redfern	Jack O'Brien Reserve	\$ 12,000.00
	Woolloomooloo	Viaduct Park (Palmer St – Sir John Young Crescent)	\$ 90,000.00
	Green Square	Linear Park	\$ 600,000.00 *
	Ultimo	Jones Street pocket park	\$ 10,000.00
2012	Surry Hills	Devonshire Street Reserve	\$ 22,000.00
	St Peters	Sydney Park Fitness	\$ 420,000.00
	Waterloo	Broome Street Reserve	\$ 19,000.00
	Haymarket	Day Street Reserve	\$ 35,000.00
	Newtown	Knight & Flora St Reserve	\$ *600,000.00
	Alexandria	Kirsova Reserve	\$ 200,000.00
2011	Haymarket	Shelley Street Streetscape (Sc)	\$ 25,000.00
	Woolloomooloo	Bourke Street Park	\$ 977,050.00
	Surry Hills	Fanny Place	\$ 40,000.00
	Redfern	Regent Street Corner	\$ 20,000.00
	Paddington	Three Saints Square	\$ 103,580.00
2010	Glebe	Tram Stop Reserve	\$ 14,000.00
	Camperdown	Mitchell St Playground	\$ 156,000.00
	Paddington	Ethel Turner Playground	\$ 540,000.00
	Pymont	Bridge St Park	\$ *200,000.00

Year completed	Suburb	Locations	Approx. Cost
	Paddington	Stewart Street Reserve	\$ 6,000.00
2009	Erskineville	Dibbs Street Reserve	\$ 180,000.00
	Newtown	Burren St Playground	\$ 192,000.00
	Newtown	WJ Thurnbon Park	\$ 78,000.00
	Glebe	Millard Reserve	\$ 204,000.00
	Glebe	MJ Dougherty Reserve	\$ 348,000.00
	Forest Lodge	Wood Street Playground (Orphan School Creek)	\$ 3,553,010.00
	Camperdown	Larkin St Reserve	\$ 534,812.00
	Forest Lodge	Minogue Reserve	\$ 19,000.00
	Darlington	Rose Terrace	\$ 644,177.00
2008	Pymont	Fish Market Gardens (Sc)	\$ 45,000.00
	Ultimo	Ada Place Playground	\$ 90,157.00
	Camperdown	Arundel Street Playground	\$ 85,355.00
	Surry Hills	Frogs Hollow Park	\$ 1,323,549.00
	Redfern	Hanson Cab Place	\$ 156,000.00
	Camperdown	May Pitt Playground	\$ 90,000.00
	Surry Hills	Parkham Street Closure	\$ 35,177.00
	Rosebery	Bannerman Crescent Reserve	\$ 192,000.00
2007	Waterloo	James Deacon Reserve	\$ 151,627.00
	Elizabeth Bay	Surrey St Playground	\$ 150,000.00
	Glebe	Sarah Pennington Reserve	\$ 250,000.00
	Glebe	Franklin St Park playground	\$ 40,000.00
	Surry Hills	Ward Park	\$ 90,000.00
	Forest Lodge	Lew Hoad Reserve	\$ 500,000.00
2006	Darlington	Lacrozia Reserve	\$ 220,000.00

Year completed	Suburb	Locations	Approx. Cost
	Sydney	Lang Park	\$ 90,000.00
	Surry Hills	Shannon Reserve	\$ 60,000.00
	Elizabeth Bay	Waratah St Reserve	\$ 200,000.00
2005	Chippendale	Peace Park	\$ 60,000.00
	Glebe	Thomas Portley Reserve	\$ 60,000.00
	Glebe	AV Henry Reserve	\$ 60,000.00
	Glebe	Arthur Paddy Grey Reserve	\$ 90,000.00

Future upgrades are scheduled based on asset condition and feedback from the community. Works planned for the next four years (subject to budget approval by Council) include:

Projected Small Parks and Playground Upgrades (2016-2021)			
2016	Sydney	Lang Park stage 2	\$ 30,000.00
	Redfern	Elizabeth McCrea Reserve	\$ 280,000.00
	East Sydney	East Sydney Community & Arts Centre Park	\$ *600,000.00
	Erskineville	Renwick Street Reserve	\$ 280,000.00
2017	Surry Hills	Shannon Reserve	\$ 720,000.00
	East Sydney	222 Palmer St Park	\$ 350,000.00
	Sydney	Jessie Street Gardens	\$ 1,000,000.00
2018	Redfern	Daniel Dawson Reserve	\$ 500,000.00
	Woolloomooloo	Woolloomooloo Playground	\$ 700,000.00
2019	Alexandria	Alexandria Park Playground	\$ 700,000.00
	Forest Lodge	Ross Street Playground	\$ 750,000.00
	Glebe	Ernest Pedersen Reserve and William Carlton Gardens	\$ 750,000.00
2020	Glebe	Cardigan Street Reserve	\$ 1,000,000.00
	Forest Lodge	Minogue Crescent Reserve	\$ 750,000.00
	Darlington	Thomas Street Playground	\$ 250,000.00

Year completed	Suburb	Locations	Approx. Cost
2021	Chippendale	Strickland Park	\$ 300,000.00
	Millers Point	Trinity Ave Playground	\$ 250,000.00

PAYING SMALL BUSINESS WITHIN 30 DAYS (S103147)

17. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

The NSW State Government has a policy requiring government agencies to pay outstanding invoices within 30 calendar days or pay penalty interest for late payment. What is the City's policy about paying invoices submitted by small businesses within 30 days?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City's Accounts Payable Policy establishes a framework for processing invoices and payments in accord with legislative requirements and to ensure best practice in our business operations.

The City's standard terms of trade for the payment of suppliers are 30 days from the date of invoice, terms which are reiterated in our standard contract conditions and referenced within our issued purchase orders. In the event where 30 days is inappropriate for a particular supplier, which is uncommon, the standard terms may be varied after due consideration and with the approval of the Procurement Manager.

Provided that goods and services are supplied of an appropriate standard, the City's payment processes are geared to ensure payment is made within that approved payment term.

COMMEMORATING SYDNEY ANZACS (S103147)

18. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

In the entrance to Town Hall, there are two plaques commemorating the Council employees who served in World War 1 and World War 2. While family members of those listed on the boards are often seen visiting to take photographs of these important memorials, for the rest of us they remain names of strangers. It is only when we get to learn about the actual stories of the individuals that these names become more than a stranger on a list.

While the plaques at the Town Hall entrance commemorate former Council employees, many residents of the LGA signed up in both wars with tragic results.

Can the City confirm whether James Michael O'Connor commemorated on the Council Employee World War 2 plaque in the foyer of Town Hall is the same as the James Michael O'Connor NX3029, 34 years old, who died in the Battle for Greece on 26 April 1941?

He served as a private in the Australian Army Service Corps 6th Aust. Division and was the son of Michael and Elizabeth Agnes O'Connor and the husband of Ethel O'Connor of Kingsford. Upon his enlistment, James and his wife Ethel lived at Kendall Street Surry Hills and he was a lorry driver.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City of Sydney Archives is considered the premier local government archives collection in Australia. The archives collection has now been accumulating for more than 170 years, and includes records from the City of Sydney, other entities absorbed by the City at different times and from local government area community groups.

The City responds to over 5,000 archive related enquires every year. Further information on the scope of the City's archive collection (including on-line catalogue and search tools) may be found at - <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/search-our-collections>

The honour roll to recognise the war service of City staff during World War 2, installed at Sydney Town Hall in the late 1940s, is inscribed with the names of 13 staff members who died while on active service. The City intends to digitise the staff cards for these 13 men, and make them available through our online catalogue.

The information requested in relation to the names of the war dead inscribed on the World War 2 honour roll is being researched. A further response will be provided to Councillor Vithoukas.

SHARING HISTORY (S103147)

19. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

The Rosebery parks Crete Reserve, Tarakan Reserve and El Alamein Reserve were all renamed after the Second World War to commemorate the battles, service and lives of the Australian men who served there.

Does the City provide and maintain plaques in these reserves sharing the history of these spaces, the battles they are named after and the Australian men and women who served there?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The El Alamein Reserve War Memorial with Sundial is located in the El Alamein Reserve and is maintained by the City. It was erected by the Rosebery AIF Auxiliary Fund and consists of a sandstone and granite plinth with sundial and memorial garden surrounds. The memorial includes the names of the citizens of Rosebery who gave their lives in the Second World War.

The City will be installing history panels in the park signage at Crete Reserve in 2016. The panel narrative will include reference to WWII and the naming of the Reserve and the neighbouring Tarakan Reserve and El Alamein Reserve.

As the three reserves are small and very close together, only the one sign is proposed, to be located on Crete Reserve, but addressing the historical naming of the three Reserves.

457 VISAS (S103141)

20. By Councillor Mandla

Question

Like many organisations, the City of Sydney most likely employs workers under 457 visas for skilled work.

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. What is the City of Sydney's stance on employing 457 visa holders?
2. How many 457 visa workers are employed by the City of Sydney?
3. What divisions are these workers employed in?
4. How are particular jobs categorised as "highly skilled"?
5. What is the process undertaken by the City of Sydney before a 457 visa applicant is hired?
6. What is the cost of sponsoring a 457 visa worker?
7. How much has the City of Sydney spent on sponsoring 457 visa workers in 2014 and 2015?
8. Does the City of Sydney help 457 visa workers become Permanent Residents?
9. How many 457 visa workers has the City of Sydney helped become Permanent Residents?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. The City of Sydney considers sponsoring a candidate for a 457 visa when the position has been comprehensively advertised and an Australian candidate was not secured for the position or when the non-resident candidate was the outstanding candidate for the position. In these instances, the position must be on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's Skilled Occupation list and the person must be eligible to apply for a visa.
2. There are currently 11.
3. Six are employed in Planning, Development and Transport; two in City Operations; two in City Life; and one in City Projects and Property.
4. The position is included on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's Skilled Occupation List.
5. The City begins the 457 visa process by lodging a nomination application according to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's requirements and, once accepted, the employee lodges their visa application.
6. Approximately \$2,500 per visa.

7. The total cost of Temporary Work (Skilled) Visa sponsorship was \$7,587 for 2014/15 and \$7,109 for 2013/14.
8. Yes, in instances where the City of Sydney continues to require the skilled worker.
9. In 2014/15 financial year there were three instances.

HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH SERVICES AND FUNDING (S103141)

21. By Councillor Mandla

Question

The City of Sydney funds many organisations in social welfare sectors.

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. Does the City of Sydney fund the YWCA Brokerage?
2. How much funding does the City of Sydney give the YWCA?
3. Are there any conditions on this funding?
4. Does the City of Sydney have any say in how the funding is spent/on which initiatives it is spent on?
5. Does the City of Sydney fund Neami National?
6. How much funding does the City of Sydney give Neami National?
7. Are there any conditions on this funding?
8. Does the City of Sydney have any say in how the funding is spent/on which initiatives it is spent on?
9. Does the City of Sydney give any funding to The O'Brien Centre?
10. How much funding does the City of Sydney give The O'Brien Centre?
11. Are there any conditions on this funding?
12. Does the City of Sydney have any say in how the funding is spent/on which initiatives it is spent on?
13. Does the City of Sydney fund the Homeless Health Service at St Vincent?
14. How much funding does the City of Sydney give the Homeless Health Service?
15. Are there any conditions on this funding?
16. Does the City of Sydney have any say in how the funding is spent/on which initiatives it is spent on?
17. Are there any other organisations that the City of Sydney funds for homelessness outreach services?

18. How much funding is given to other organisations?
19. Does the City of Sydney conduct investigations into the staffing and integrity of social and welfare organisations before giving funding?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

On 3 November 2014 Council resolved to:

- approve a cash grant of up to \$1,228,500 (excluding GST) in 2014/15 to the Department of Family and Community Services for specialist homelessness services in inner city Sydney, including assertive outreach, service coordination for young people, brokerage and supported housing as outlined in the subject report; and
- approve a cash grant of \$1,400,000 (excluding GST) plus CPI per annum in 2015/16 and 2016/17 to the Department of Family and Community Services for specialist homelessness services in inner city Sydney, including assertive outreach, service coordination for young people, brokerage and supported housing.

The City has entered into a grant agreement with the Department of Family and Community Services who distribute the funds as follows:

- \$600,000 to Neami National to enhance outreach services and increase delivery of this service in the City of Sydney, including specialist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services;
- \$600,000 to extend the Department of Family and Community Services' Connect 100 Program to provide 26-30 inner city tenancy and support packages for people sleeping rough in the inner city; and
- \$200,000 to Launchpad, in partnership with the Ted Noffs Foundation and Weave Youth and Community Services to deliver the flexible brokerage and service coordination for young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

The two non-government organisations in receipt of this funding were successful in the Department of Family and Community Services' specialist homelessness services tender process in 2014.

Recommendations are made to Council after assessment of demonstrated community need, organisational capacity to deliver identified outcomes, organisational past performance, budget, partnerships and contributions. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, City staff develop a grant agreement which includes performance measures, targets and conditions that must be adhered to, and acquitted against.

The City also leases 90 Regent Street, Redfern to the Property Industry Foundation at a peppercorn rental of \$1.00 per annum. The Property Industry Foundation subleases the premises to the Salvation Army to run a transitional accommodation service for young people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. In return for works undertaken on the property by the Property Industry Foundation, the City forgoes potential market rent of \$50,000 annually to facilitate this arrangement – an in-kind contribution of in excess of \$250,000 over the five-year lease. The current lease term will expire on 21 June 2017.

LABOUR ANALYTICAL SYSTEM TO MONITOR STAFF ATTENDANCE AND MOVEMENTS (S103141)

22. By Councillor Mandla

Question

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. Is a labour analytical system to be introduced to monitor Council staff attendance and movement in the workplace?
2. If so, is participation in this system obligatory for all staff with the only permanent exceptions being the Chief Executive Officer, the Council Directors and your Chief of Staff?
3. Are there to be any other exemptions from participation in this monitoring system (other than the CEO, Directors and your Chief of Staff)?
4. Will you confirm that exceptions will only occur where absolutely necessary and will be "signed off" by a Director or your Chief of Staff?
5. Will you confirm that, insofar as your own staff are concerned, this labour analytical system will:
 - (a) not apply to your Chief of Staff;
 - (b) not apply to staff reporting directly to you as Lord Mayor; and
 - (c) require "Sign Off" by your Chief of Staff for any exemptions from this system deemed necessary for selected members of your staff from time to time?
6. Will the database established by this labour analytical systems program form the major basis for compiling staff payrolls?
7. For what time period will the data collected by this labour analytical system be retained by Council?
8. Will Governance fully investigate and take necessary disciplinary action when unsubstantiated absenteeism or unusual attendance or movement patterns are detected by this analytical system for an individual employee?
9. Should a contractor be responsible for maintaining and monitoring this labour analytical systems program and reporting unsubstantiated absenteeism or unusual attendance behaviour to Council, will Governance be advised and fully investigate and where necessary, take disciplinary action?
10. Will the Chief Executive Officer regularly review the list of exemptions granted by Directors and your Chief of Staff?
11. Will you confirm that the Lord Mayor and all Councillors and staff who report directly to Councillors will be exempt from this program?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City is undertaking a project to improve the Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) to support the efficiency, effectiveness and integrity of HR business processes.

The project is being implemented in three 'streams' which aim to:

- Build on the City's existing investment in Frontier Software "Chris²¹" as the core payroll system and 'source of truth' for employee information.
 - Increase the value derived from the City's existing use of Kronos "Workforce Central" as the core time and attendance system.
 - Implement a new Talent Management Suite to complement existing HR systems. The priority processes identified in this stream are Learning and Development, Performance Management and Recruitment.
1. No. Kronos has been used in the City since 2004, and currently records time and attendance data for approximately 450 employees. Its use will be expanded as part of the HRIS project and will include a module that provides intelligent rostering capabilities.
 2. Employees will use Kronos for time and attendance if they work rotating or variable shift patterns; work overtime that may entitle them to meal, travel, or other allowances; work at different sites or for different cost centres; or if the service has related compliance requirements, such as childcare.
 3. Employees who don't meet one or more of the criteria outlined in 2 will not use Kronos. These are generally salaried staff whose pay is consistent each fortnight. The City gave consideration to implementing Kronos time and attendance monitoring for all City employees, but ruled it out following an analysis of the cost compared to the limited business benefit for this group of employees.
 4. See 2 and 3.
 5. See 2 and 3.
 6. The Kronos system interprets the time and attendance data against the relevant industrial awards to determine each employee's entitlement to ordinary and overtime pay and any allowances. The timesheet data is passed electronically to the Chris²¹ payroll system for payment to employees.
 7. All time and attendance data gathered for the purposes of calculating employees' pay is required to be retained for "a minimum of six (6) years after the action is completed", as per the NSW State Records Authority regulation GA39 22.16.02.
 8. The City's Governance and Workforce Services units investigate and take the appropriate disciplinary action in relation to wrong doing.
 9. The HR systems are managed by employees in Workforce Services.
 10. Not applicable.

The Lord Mayor and Councillors are not employees and will not use the Kronos system. Staff who work in Councillors' offices may use the system if they work rotating or variable patterns or if there is another business improvement opportunity.