

**ITEM 13. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****BELMORE PARK (\$103148)**

1. By Councillor Forster

**Question**

It was reported in the media in January that private security guards had been contracted to patrol Belmore Park at a cost of \$185,000.

Why were Councillors not informed, by resolution of Council, via the CEO Update or any other means, of plans to employ the guards?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Please refer to my answer to Question on Notice No. 32.

**ASYLUM SEEKERS (\$103146)**

2. By Councillor Doutney

**Question**

Regarding the situation of asylum seekers in the City of Sydney LGA:

1. What free or subsidised services are currently available?
2. What identification do asylum seekers need to be granted access to these services?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Refugees and asylum seekers can access many of the City's facilities and services free of charge or at a concessional rate, as follows:

- The City's Library branches offer free annual Library membership under a special Temporary Membership category, which allows a borrowing limit of five items for three weeks, and access to all Library facilities. This membership category also applies to people who are homeless or are residents of refugees.
- Refugees and asylum seekers may attend any of the City's Community Centres and participate in the free and low cost programs and activities held there, in the same way as City residents, workers and visitors do.
- The Juanita Nielsen Gym Outreach Program is a community partnership program, for which there are no fees payable by participants. Local community agencies working with vulnerable community members may apply to participate in the Outreach Program, and can then refer their clients to attend the gym for up to 20 visits, over 6 months, free of charge. Current Community Partners for this program include Asylum Seekers Centre, Newtown and Rough Edges, Darlinghurst who work with homeless people.

- Under the City's contracts aquatic centre operators must work with the City to develop programming that promotes social inclusion for a range of target groups that includes refugees and asylum seekers. This has included distribution of 2 for 1 swim passes to refugee and asylum seeker organisations.
- Refugees and asylum seekers, who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for the City's Meals on Wheels service, can receive low cost meals, and may apply under the standard hardship criteria for a fee waiver.

For Library membership, proof of name only is required for a temporary membership. Identification, in the form of an ImmiCard or the Centrelink Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program client card, is used to access the City's Community Centre activities and Meals on Wheels.

For all other services, no identification is required, as is the case when other members of the public wish to use City services.

### **SOCIAL HOUSING WELLBEING AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN (S103146)**

3. By Councillor Doutney

#### **Question**

Can the Council be updated on any progress on the City's Social Housing Wellbeing and Safety Action Plan? When is this plan due to be completed?

Could Council also be updated on any subsequent actions the City has taken to address issues raised in the Housing Issues Paper since its release in April 2015?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

An update on the City's Social Housing Wellbeing and Safety Action Plan has been included in the Relevant To for Agenda Item 6.2 – 2015/16 Quarter 2 Review.

A separate update on the Housing Issues Paper and actions undertaken subsequent to its public exhibition will be provided to Councillors by CEO Update

### **COOL ROADS (CHIPPENDALE PALE PAVEMENT TRIAL) (S103148)**

4. By Councillor Forster

#### **Question**

The City of Sydney is currently trialling pale pavement in Myrtle Street, between Abercrombie and Smithers Streets, in Chippendale, as part of an investigation into ways of reducing temperatures in urban environments.

Lighter-coloured surfaces do not generally absorb as much light, or retain as much heat as dark surfaces and therefore have the potential to reduce urban temperatures, resulting in lower energy consumption by surrounding buildings, as well as improving road strength.

1. What is the status of the pale pavement trial in Chippendale and when is it due to be completed?
2. Are there plans to extend the trial to other areas in the LGA?
3. To date, how much money in total has the City spent on the pale pavement trial in Chippendale?
4. Could you please provide a detailed breakdown of the spending to date on the Chippendale pale pavement trial, including the amounts spent on public consultation; installation of temperature monitoring equipment; installation of pale pavement and other surfaces; data gathering and analysis of trial results?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

1. The City installed weather monitoring devices that have recorded temperature and humidity at 15 minute intervals since 2012 at the following locations:
  - Buckland Street, Chippendale
  - Myrtle Street Chippendale
  - Wells Street, Redfern

In June 2014, the City installed a pale road pavement near the monitoring device at Myrtle Street, Chippendale, between Abercrombie Street and Smithers Street.

The trial will provide a comparison of the temperature between regular dark coloured asphalt and the pale pavement over a three year trial period. The trial period will allow the City to assess the durability of the pale pavement.

Research into the effectiveness of the pale road pavement is also been undertaken by students from the University of Technology.

The trial is due to be completed in June 2017.

2. Expansion of pale pavements to other areas in the LGA will depend on the outcomes of the trial and future decisions of Council. The cost of the pale pavement used in the trial was 49% higher than regular asphalt used to resurface the City's roads. At the end of the trial, the benefits to the environment will be considered against the additional cost to install pale road surfaces.
3. The cost of the pale pavement trial to date, including the installation of the weather monitoring devices, is \$122,864.
4. The cost for community consultation, which included a letter to surrounding residents and the development of a web page providing information for the community, was \$5,400.

The fixed cost to install all three monitoring devices was \$29,396. The cost to retrieve the data from all three measuring devices since the installation is \$8,457.

The cost to install the pale road pavement at Myrtle Street Chippendale was \$79,611.

All costs are exclusive of GST.

**ANZAC PARADE TREE REMOVAL (S103148)**

5. By Councillor Forster

**Question**

Of the 112 Moreton Bay Figs identified along the CBD and South East Light Rail route, only 19 have been removed or are scheduled for removal as part of the construction works, with another 12 being investigated for relocation. Almost three-quarters (81 of the 112) will remain standing for current and future generations to enjoy.

What is the Lord Mayor's position on the removal and scheduled removal of these 19 trees?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

While I strongly support the light rail project, the large number of trees being removed along the route is extremely distressing, particularly historic trees with environmental and heritage significance. The unnecessary loss of trees is jeopardising support for this important project.

On 25 January 2016 I wrote to the Minister for Transport, the Hon Andrew Constance MP, and urged him to urgently intervene to prevent the further destruction of significant mature Moreton Bay Figs in Moore Park. I also called on him to conduct an urgent review of tree loss along the light rail route to identify ways in which tree removal can be avoided and further minimised. I will continue to advocate for this.

**WESTCONNEX (S103148)**

6. By Councillor Forster

**Question**

To date, how much in total has Council spent on its media and direct mailing campaign against WestConnex? Please provide details of the cost of facilitating public rallies in Town Hall and elsewhere, direct distribution and mailing of materials, production of brochures, including newsletters from the Lord Mayor and Council which criticise the WestConnex project.

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Spend on printing and distribution of flyers within the LGA in 2014-15 financial year was \$26,184, which includes the costs of promoting the public rally in Town Hall. Spend for printing and distribution in current financial year is \$13,100.

**ACCELERATION OF CITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS (S103142)**

7. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

In a letter to the editor, published in The Sydney Morning Herald on 27 January 2016, the Lord Mayor wrote that the City's "ongoing work can be accelerated" as a result of the State Government confirming that no amalgamation will go ahead for the City of Sydney Council.

Will any projects or programs be accelerated?

If so, which of the City's projects and programs will be accelerated?

What was the original time frame for the delivery of these projects and programs?

What is the new time frame for the delivery of these accelerated projects and programs?

What are the budgetary impacts of this announcement?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Now that the NSW Government has confirmed the City of Sydney will not be considered for amalgamation, City staff can focus once again on the delivery of our projects and programs for our community. The timeframe for the delivery of these projects and programs will be reviewed as part of the annual development of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan which will be considered by Council in coming months.

**CITY PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS (S103142)**

8. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

In a letter to the editor, published in The Daily Telegraph on 23 January 2016, the Lord Mayor wrote that there are "370 projects in the pipeline over the next 10 years".

Can the Lord Mayor provide a detailed list of each project over the next 10 years, with a table to include the expected completion date of each project and the budget allocation?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The Long Term Financial Plan provides specific funding for projects and programs that have reached key milestones in strategic planning and delivery and the allocation of funding in future years for planned projects and programs which are yet to be detailed. As projects and programs are progressed, they are included in the more detailed Delivery Program and Operational Plan which are considered by Council annually.

**PROTECTION OF HERITAGE IN MILLERS POINT (S103142)**

9. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

What are Council's processes for ensuring compliance with Conservation Management Plans?

How many inspections or other actions have been undertaken in Millers Point to enforce compliance with Conservation Management Plans since 2012?

In light of the judgement made in *Council of the City of Sydney v Adams* [2015] NSWLEC 206, have these processes to enforce compliance with Conservation Management Plans been reviewed?

In light of the judgement made in *Council of the City of Sydney v Adams* [2015] NSWLEC 206, have the number of inspections to enforce compliance with Conservation Management Plans been increased?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Council planners and heritage specialists refer to a building's *Conservation Management Plan* (CMP) when assessing development applications for works proposed for that building. Works are to comply with the letter and/or intent of the CMP. In the case of Millers Point, all heritage items disposed of by Housing NSW to date have had CMPs prepared for them.

Once development consent and a construction certificate are issued for the heritage item, there is little opportunity for Council's officers to inspect the site during the works, as compliance with the conditions of consent is the responsibility of the building certifier. In many cases, the certifier is a private sector certifier.

There is no power for Council's officers to make pre-emptive inspections of buildings to ensure compliance with CMPs, unless there is a reasonable suspicion that unauthorised works have been carried out. Once we receive a report of unauthorised works, our rangers and Health and Building officers inspect the site and issue stop work orders and other orders as appropriate. Health and Building officers liaise with the heritage specialists in the Planning Assessment Unit when drafting compliance orders.

As Millers Point is also listed on the State Heritage Register, the NSW Heritage Council has a key role in the endorsement and implementation of CMPs. All City of Sydney planning decisions/orders in relation to heritage places require the concurrence of NSW Heritage Council under the Heritage Act.

In addition to site inspections by planners and heritage specialists related to the assessment of individual development applications, inspections have taken place in response to reports of unauthorised works. A search of Council's records indicates that inspections and actions related to unauthorised works have been carried out on at least six properties in Millers Point since 2012. These included the inspections and actions related to 20 Argyle Street, the subject of *City of Sydney v Adams*.

The EP&A Act does not give Council the authority to conduct pre-emptive internal inspections.

**JOHNSTONS CREEK PARKLANDS MASTERPLAN (S103142)**

10. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

How many future capital works projects are contained within the Johnstons Creek Parklands Masterplan?

When are the capital works projects contained within the Johnstons Creek Parklands Masterplan due to be completed?

Broken down by financial year, what budget allocations have been set aside for each capital works project within the Johnstons Creek Parklands Masterplan over the next 10 years?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

I refer Councillor Scott to my answer to Question on Notice No. 9 on 18 May 2015.

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/233902/150518\\_COUNCIL\\_ITEM11.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/233902/150518_COUNCIL_ITEM11.pdf)

**110-122 OXFORD STREET, DARLINGHURST (S103142)**

11. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

The City owns 110-122 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst.

What was the historical use of this property?

Are any works currently being conducted on this property? If so, what is the nature of these works? What is the cost?

What is the City's plan for future uses of this property?

By financial year, what is the income earned from this property?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

110-122 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst consists of ground floor tenancies with basements fronting Foley Street and two upper levels. The historical use of the building these floors:

- The ground floor has historically been used for retail such as take away food and fashion.
- Level 1 and Level 2 were historically used for office space, a dance studio and fourteen studio residential apartments.

There are currently no capital works being undertaken on this property. However, Request for Quotes are currently being obtained for the replacement of a roof membrane over the section of the building at 110 Oxford Street.

On 27 June 2011, the Lord Mayor presented a Minute proposing new directions for lower Oxford Street. On 22 August 2011, Council endorsed a Memorandum from the Chief Executive Officer to undertake a number of short, medium and long term (5-10 years) initiatives to activate lower Oxford Street.

A feasibility study was completed in November 2013 which assessed the viability and cost of converting the upper floors of 118–122 Oxford Street into 14 self-contained artist live/work apartments, and converting Levels 1 and 2 and the basements of 110 and 112-116 Oxford Street into artists' work and creative incubator spaces. This initiative was developed with specific regard to Sustainable Sydney 2030 and the effective implementation of the Oxford Street Cultural Quarter Action Plan.

Income derived from 110-122 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst for the financial year ending 2015 was \$187,859.

### **RIDESHARING (\$103142)**

12. By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

On 17 December 2015, the NSW State Government announced its decision to regulate ridesharing throughout NSW.

In light of this announcement, what actions has and will the City undertake to review the *Central Sydney On-Street Parking Policy* with a view to engage stakeholders in the ridesharing sector?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

As is usual administrative practice, if amendments are required to any existing City policies to accommodate regulatory changes, Councillors will be advised.

With regard to ridesharing, City staff have held discussions with at least one ridesharing service provider. All private vehicles enjoy the same rights under the Road Rules to pick up and set down passengers in appropriate locations, such as loading zones, ticket parking areas and No Parking zones. No amendment to the Policy is necessary to accommodate this activity, and existing signage can be modified as required by the City's traffic committee, in consultation with the CBD Coordination Office.

### **WATERLOO GREEN CYCLEWAY (\$103142)**

13. By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

The City has installed a cycleway which directs cyclists through the Waterloo Green.

Is the City aware of any risks to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists posed by the cycleway through the Waterloo Green?



Have any accidents been reported to the City, or to the NSW Police? If so, how many and of what nature?

Has the City sought to, or taken any action to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists at the Waterloo Green?

If the City has sought to or taken actions to improve safety, what has been the nature of these improvements?

What advice, if any, has the City provided to the Council's insurer on this matter?

If advice has been provided to the Council's insurer, has the City received a response?

### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City undertook a comprehensive behavioural study of people walking and riding on the path through Waterloo Green. The findings of the study were:

- almost all interactions between bicycle riders and pedestrians appeared amicable;
- there was no objective evidence of the risk of conflict between riders and pedestrians;
- the perception of risk in itself is sufficient reason to seek to address excessive speeds; and
- it would be undesirable to create a barrier through a separated cycleway in the centre of the park.

No accidents have been reported to NSW Police or to the City (since 1 January 2010).

The design incorporated the recommendations from the behavioural study to address safety concerns with measures to manage speed and behaviour, including path alignment, gateway treatments, path texture changes and signage.

No advice has been provided to the Council's insurer.

## **CORE BUSINESS OF COUNCIL (S103142)**

**14.** By Councillor Scott

### **Question**

In a media release published by the City of Sydney on 27 February 2015 (City's latest street count numbers), it was stated that "social and affordable housing are the responsibility of state and federal governments".

In an article published in The Sydney Morning Herald on 11 February 2016, it was stated that "Cr Moore said the City of Sydney had opened up six after-school programs despite not being the council's core responsibility".

Lord Mayor, what is the core business of Council?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The core business of Council is set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*, including Chapter 3 (The Council's Charter), Chapter 5 (The Council's functions) and Chapter 6 (The Council's service functions).

**ARTWORK AT TAYLOR SQUARE (S103142)**

15. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

On 24 February 2014, Council endorsed the installation of a permanent artwork in Taylor Square to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in 2018.

How much was budgeted, broken down by financial year, in the 2013/2014, 2014/2015, and 2015/2016 City of Sydney Budgets for this artwork?

In the long term financial plan for 2016/17 and 2017/18, how much has been allocated to this work?

By financial year, how much is projected to be spent on this artwork in future budgets?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

\$700,000 has been budgeted for the installation of a permanent artwork in Taylor Square and is identified in the Long Term Financial Plan up until 2018.

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN, ROSEBERY (S103142)**

16. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

When did the City of Sydney last prepare or commission a traffic management plan for the suburb of Rosebery?

Can Councillors please be provided with a copy of the latest traffic management plan for Rosebery?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City has not prepared or commissioned a Traffic Management Plan for the wider suburb of Rosebery.

In November 2013, the City commissioned GHD to undertake a Traffic and Transport Study for the North Rosebery Precinct. The study was commissioned to inform the review of planning controls for the precinct the City was in the process of developing at the time. The precinct is generally bound by Epsom Road, Dalmeny Avenue, Kimberley Grove and Rothschild Avenue.

The Traffic and Transport Study assesses the potential impact of future development on a number of intersections within and adjacent to the precinct. It identifies what traffic and transport management measures may need to be implemented to support anticipated growth as it occurs.

### **LIVE MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN (S103142)**

17. By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

On 7 April 2014, Council adopted the *Live Music and Performance Action Plan*.

Since its adoption, how many and which of the recommendations contained within the *Live Music and Performance Action Plan* have been successfully actioned to completion?

To date, how many and which of the recommendations contained within the *Live Music and Performance Action Plan* are in-progress?

To date, how many and which of the recommendations contained within the *Live Music and Performance Action Plan* are yet to be commenced?

Broken down by financial year, what are the past and future budget allocations for the *Live Music and Performance Action Plan*?

When will the recommendation 4.6.2 be implemented, and made available for use?

What is the reason for the delay in implementation of recommendation 4.6.2?

Does Roads and Maritime Services have any jurisdiction in the implementation of recommendation 4.6.2?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

As agreed at the meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee on 22 February 2016, this information will be provided to Councillors via CEO Update.

### **FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT (S103142)**

18. By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

In the *Woolloomooloo Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Draft Plan*, it is noted that \$2.5 million be set aside for further investigation and then capital works based on this further investigation for the enhancement of the kerb/gutter of Victoria Street.

Have any other projects for specific investigation and capital works been identified in other floodplain risk management plans been budgeted for investigation, design or completion works?

If so, please detail which projects and in which year.

Moving forward, what will be the process for deciding how the actions identified in the various Floodplain Risk Management Studies will be prioritised and funded?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City has eight Floodplain Risk Management Plans. At present, three of these Plans have been adopted by Council and the last five are expected to be adopted in 2016. Flood Risk Management Plans must be prepared in keeping with the NSW Government Floodplain Risk Management Manual, and they often include structural flood mitigation measures. These structural measures are prioritised as either short, medium or long term based on a multi-criteria assessment. Upon adoption of all the Floodplain Risk Management Plans, a Floodplain Implementation Plan must then be prepared. Short term priority projects are then incorporated into the City's Long Term Financial Plan for completion within the subsequent 10 years.

There are 31 short, medium or long term structural mitigation projects proposed within all of the City's Floodplain Risk Management Plans. The following short term projects are expected to be completed within the next 10 years:

- Green Square Stormwater Drain (Currently under construction)
- Joynton Avenue Stormwater Improvements
- Shea's Creek Flood Walls
- Pipe Upgrade from Macdonald Street and Coulson Street to the Alexandra Canal
- Bridge Raising At Johnsons Creek

The actual timing of works is dependent upon the adoption of Flood Risk Management Plans by Council, further investigations, funding and associated approvals.

**GREEN SQUARE AQUATIC CENTRE (S103142)**

19. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

How many scoping, design, or other studies have been completed in relation to the Southern Area Aquatic Facility and the Green Square Aquatic Centre? Please list each study, the year it was published, and the cost for each.

Given the current diagrams for the Green Square Aquatic Centre do not include a fence, and that the Royal Life Saving Society NSW has advised of their concerns about the supervisory requirements of the pool, leisure beach area, and the unconventional shape of the facility, can Councillors please be provided with updated plans to show where the pool fence will be located?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Information on this matter has been provided to Councillors by way of a Relevant To for Agenda Item 7.6 - Scoping – Gunyama Park and Green Square Aquatic Centre, Zetland.

**GREEN SQUARE PLAZA (S103142)**

20. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

What percentage of time will be allocated for commercial use in the new Green Square Plaza?

What percentage will be reserved for public use in the new Green Square Plaza?

Will the temporary installation of amusement rides be considered a valid use in Green Square Plaza if all conditions are met?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

If approved by Council on 29 February 2016, a development application will be lodged for Green Square Plaza Events. Attached to that report is a Statement of Environmental Effects which includes an Event Management Plan together with guidelines and other appendices. This documentation may be subject to review following Plaza completion.

**CLEANING STAFF (S103142)**

21. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

As per the Council briefing on the 2015/2016 Quarter 2 Review of the Delivery Program 2014-2017, please detail the savings, and from which company or companies, the City has made with contractors that conduct cleaning services for Council.

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The 2015/2016 budgets were set prior to appointing The City's incumbent cleaning company, Quad Services Pty Ltd. Expenditure year to 31 December 2015 was \$2,092,666 against budget of \$3,119,184, reflecting a favourable variance of \$1,026,518.

**CITY FARM (S103142)**

22. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

When will the City Farm be complete and operational?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

This matter was addressed at the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 22 February 2016. Additional information has also been provided to Councillors by way of a Relevant To.

**SOLAR PANELS (S103142)**

23. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

For each City of Sydney building, when will the installation of solar panels be completed?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

This matter was addressed at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee held on 22 February 2016.

**CITY OF SYDNEY HOMELESSNESS UNIT (S103141)**

24. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

The City of Sydney states on its website that “The City of Sydney Homelessness Unit operates seven days a week to reduce homelessness and its impact in Sydney”.

1. Does the City of Sydney Homelessness Unit operate seven days a week?
2. If so, who operates the unit seven days a week and what are the hours that it operates?
3. What functions does it perform during what hours of the day and on what day?
4. Where does the City of Sydney Homelessness Unit operate from during the week and weekends?
5. Is the City of Sydney Homelessness Unit contactable outside of business hours?
6. Is it contactable other than via email?
7. Why does the City of Sydney think email is the most convenient way to stay in contact with homeless people?
8. Does The City of Sydney Homelessness Unit operate adequately seven days a week to reduce homelessness and make sure those who do become homeless are assisted out of homelessness quickly?
9. If not, should the City of Sydney ensure changes are made to the Homelessness Unit to ensure adequate services and access to services are implemented seven days a week?
10. Will the City of Sydney make changes to the operation of the City of Sydney Homelessness Unit to ensure adequate services and access to services are implemented seven days a week?
11. What performance indicators are maintained?
12. Are we succeeding in reducing the incidence of homelessness?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Housing and homelessness are the responsibility of the Federal and State Governments.

The City of Sydney has a responsibility to manage the public domain and maintain the amenity of public spaces.

The City of Sydney is the only council in NSW with a dedicated Homelessness Unit. The City spends \$2.2M annually to reduce homelessness and its impacts in Sydney LGA.

The function of the Homelessness Unit is to respond to homelessness, particularly rough sleeping, and its impacts in Sydney. This involves facilitating collaborative interventions in hot spot areas, coordinating services, linking people experiencing homelessness with services, and increasing safety for rough sleepers, eg, regular clean-ups and severe weather response.

The City employs four Public Space Liaison Officers who work across seven days. The Officers typically work eight shifts per week; this includes weekdays from 6.30am- 3pm, one evening shift from 2-10pm and weekend shifts from 6.30-11.30am.

The Officers engage with over 70 people sleeping rough across the LGA every day. They build professional relationships and trust with rough sleepers, identifying the individual needs of those on the street and linking them with support services to exit homelessness. The Officers also engage with local residents and businesses to resolve problems and increase understanding of homelessness, thus preventing issues from escalating.

The Public Space Liaison Officers perform regular clean-ups and negotiate the fair use of public space with people sleeping rough to manage amenity issues, such as build-up of belongings, food waste, disposal of sharps, urination and defecation in public.

**NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER AND ROLLS (S103141)**

25. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

The *City of Sydney Amendment (Elections) Act 2014* commenced on 6 February 2015 and imposes obligations on the City's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to create and maintain a register and rolls of eligible non-residential voters.

On 10 August 2015, Council endorsed a Methodology and Program Plan to deliver the Non-residential Register and Rolls.

Stage 3 of the Methodology and Program Plan consists of requirements that ensure the City directly contacts all occupiers of business-rated rateable property to inform them about their new obligations and rights for non-residential enrolment and voting.

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. How many people are now registered on the business roll?
2. What does the City project the final number of registered voters to be?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the preparation of the non-residential register and rolls. The CEO will provide updates as previously advised.

**STREET SWEEPING (S103141)**

26. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

On 10 February 2016, a business owner on Redfern Street was sweeping the rubbish and debris not attended to by the City from the path of his shopfront. He claims he was approached by a City of Sydney Ranger and told that you “cannot sweep your rubbish into the street!”.

1. Are shop keepers allowed to sweep the street in front of their stores?
2. Does the City of Sydney clean the footpaths and streets of Redfern, particularly Redfern Street?
3. In what manner is the City of Sydney cleaning the streets of Redfern, particularly Redfern Street? Please detail frequency and method.

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Shopkeepers are allowed to sweep the footpaths in front of their stores, provided they dispose of any debris. If debris is swept into the gutter, it may enter the stormwater system causing pollution, which is an offence.

Redfern Street is manually swept on a daily basis.

**WARFIELD ENQUIRY – GIPA REQUEST AND FOI MEASURES (S103141)**

27. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

The NSW Information and Privacy Commissioner recently decided that Council was wrong to request \$195 to process a local resident’s request under the Government Information Public Access Act (GIPA Act) in relation to the Warfield Enquiry.

The IPC report was dated 09 December 2015, file reference: IPC15/R000191.

1. Do you agree with the NSW finding that the original GIPA request wasn’t dealt with properly?
2. If so, why was the original GIPA request not dealt with properly?
3. Why did Council decide not to release information about the Warfield Enquiry without charge?



4. What council FOI measures have now been put in place to ensure the same problems do not recur?
5. If none have been introduced, should Council implement FOI measures to ensure the same problems do not recur?
6. Is this the first FOI request that has not been dealt with properly?
7. If not, how many other FOI requests have been wrongly dealt with?
8. What measures are being taken to rectify those incorrect decisions retrospectively and inform people affected of their rights?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Council's Fees and Charges allow for the charging of application fees and processing charges in accordance with the Government Information Public Access Act. The fees charged are set by the Act.

City staff assess formal access applications in accordance with the Government Information Public Access Act and give careful consideration to any recommendations received from the Information Commissioner.

**PUBLIC ART (S103141)**

28. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

In 2014, three pieces of public art were put forward to Council, including the Cloud Arch.

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. Has the planning of the Cloud Arch come any further since 2014?
2. If so, what has been done?
3. The intention was to have the DA lodged by the end of 2015, has this intention changed?
4. If so, what is the time period it will presumably be lodged by?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Work continues on the implementation of the Cloud Arch and a development application will be lodged when ready.

**MARTIN PLACE SMOKE FREE TRIAL (S103141)**

29. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

On Monday 11 May, the City of Sydney introduced a smoke-free trial in Martin Place for 12 months.

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. Since the introduction of the smoke-free trial, how many smoking infringements have been issued?
2. How many of the smoking infringements have been paid?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

No smoking infringements have been issued.

**ST JAMES PARK PLAQUE (S103141)**

30. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

St James Park in Glebe has recently been refurbished by the City of Sydney and was re-opened on 16 May 2015. Before refurbishment, there was a plaque in the park that said that the land for the park had been originally donated by the St James Church. Since the park re-opened, this plaque is no longer in the park.

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. Why was the plaque removed from the park?
2. Where is the plaque now?
3. Does the City of Sydney plan to replace the plaque, either with the original or with a new one?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Prior to commencement of refurbishment works, the plaque was removed and placed in storage for safety. The plaque is undergoing cleaning and restoration. Once the restoration has taken place, it will be reinstalled near the original position at St James Park. It is anticipated this installation will take place in April.

**TRANSFER AND EXPANSION OF BALLARAT PARK (S103141)**

31. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

The Ballarat Park Community Campaign is an initiative established by local residents, businesses and workers in Pyrmont. It calls on the City of Sydney and NSW State Government to expand Ballarat Park by more than 60% by removing the streets adjacent to the park.

Ballarat Park was under the authority of the NSW State Government through the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. Recently, the State Government dissolved the SHFA and is currently finalising the transfer of authority over Ballarat Park to the Property NSW portfolio.

The NSW Government has also outlined an intention to consult with stakeholders and the City of Sydney during the transition period where the transfer of authority over property (including Ballarat Park) is worked out.

1. Has The City made any enquiries or proposed any course of conduct with the State Government in regards to the transfer of land since the dissolution of SHFA?
2. If not, does The City intend to make any enquiries or undertake any course of conduct with the State Government in regards to the transfer of Ballarat Park to the City of Sydney?
3. Would the City of Sydney welcome the transfer of authority over Ballarat Park to The City?
4. What process would this involve?
5. If the City does welcome the transfer of Ballarat Park, will they communicate this with the NSW State Government during the NSW Government's liaisons with stakeholders?
6. The local resident campaign to expand Ballarat Park proposes removing the streets directly adjacent to the park and replacing them with green infrastructure to expand the park. Would the City of Sydney agree that the local resident campaign to expand Ballarat Park falls within The City's Sydney 2030 strategy and Greening Sydney Plan?
7. Would the City of Sydney consider other examples of similar rejuvenations by Melbourne City Council including Errol Street Park and Yarra City Council including Peel Street Park, Oxford Street Park and Richmond Terrace Park as evidence to support success of the expansion?
8. Will the City of Sydney carry out the expansion of Ballarat Park if the NSW State Government subsequently transferred authority over Ballarat Park to The City?
9. If so, when will The City complete the expansion?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City has met with Government Property NSW about the potential transfer of assets held by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority to the City, the subject of previous reports to Council. Any proposed transfers would need to be reported to Council and would be considered by Council then.

**BELMORE PARK SECURITY OPERATION (S103141)**

32. By Councillor Mandla

**Question**

It has come to the attention of Councillors via the media that the security guards operated under a contract commissioned by the City of Sydney at Belmore Park.

The security guards were procured by the City of Sydney to operate 24/7 to monitor the activities of the homeless population occupying the park.

The huge costs of this operation have been noted by the media and yet The Lord Mayor has not to date provided adequate information to Councillors regarding the operation of these security guards at Belmore Park.

1. Were Councillors informed about this operation prior to the commission of security guards operating under a contract with the City of Sydney?
2. Why were Councillors not notified about the deployment of security guards at Belmore Park?
3. Did the City of Sydney tender for the security contract to patrol Belmore Park?
4. Under what tender has the City of Sydney procured the security guards at Belmore Park?
5. What budget has been used by the City of Sydney to fund the Belmore Park security contract?
6. What is the total amount that has been spent on the Belmore Park security guards?
7. Does the City of Sydney consider Belmore Park unsafe, particularly at night?
8. What steps has the Lord Mayor taken to inform the public of the dangers?
9. What are the exact rules of engagement, job duties and review processes for the security guards?
10. Has there been a count of the people staying in Belmore Park?
11. If so, how many people are staying in Belmore Park?
12. What is the breakdown of the types of people staying in the park? E.g. actual homeless people, visa over stayers, backpackers, people running from the law (warrant and probation issues), drug users and drug dealers?

13. A no camping sign has been erected in Belmore Park: when was this sign erected, how long has it been in place and why did the City erect this sign?
14. Is the \$2.5 Million dollar Blue Milk Crate Public Art being deferred until Belmore Park is declared safe and free from campers?
15. Should the \$2.5 Million dollar Blue Milk Crate Public Art be deferred until Belmore Park is declared safe and free from campers?
16. Should the \$2.5 Million dollar Blue Milk Crate Public Art be cancelled and the funds used to house the homeless from Belmore Park?

### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

NSW Family and Community Services (FACS), the NSW Police and the City of Sydney are working in partnership to reduce homelessness in Belmore Park and increase safety for all park users. Councillors were briefed on this partnership in July 2015.

The partnership has been in place for over 12 months and involves daily visits from specialist homelessness services, increased Police patrols and a weekly coordinated outreach team made up of FACS staff, specialist homelessness services, City staff, specialist Aboriginal services and health services.

The partnership group has engaged over 350 people in Belmore Park since last year. Of those:

- 119 have been supported to access safe accommodation;
- 34 have been housed permanently;
- 30 have been supported to reconnect with family;
- 56 people have been supported to access temporary accommodation; and
- 49 people have been supported to have their health needs met, including mental health and substance abuse support.

The City, in partnership with NSW State Government, is balancing support for vulnerable people with fair use of the public domain for the safety of all park users. Security has been installed on a trial basis in Belmore Park to increase safety for everyone, following concerns raised by NSW Police, non-government services, residents and people sleeping rough in the park. Concerns were raised following incidents including active drug use, presence of minors, and frequent reports of assault, stealing and harassment.

Security is also present to advise newly-arriving rough sleepers that camping in the park is illegal and that new tents and other structures are not permitted. They are also providing contact numbers for the state-wide Link2Home Service, which helps rough sleepers access accommodation and support. Security services are operating in conjunction with intensive support efforts to exit people from homelessness, outlined above.

Security staff operating in Belmore Park have made the area safer and prevented new tents from being set up. Security proactively report criminal activity to Police, preventing escalating issues. Incidents of anti-social behaviour have decreased.

As of 21 February, \$210,000 has been spent on security. These costs are being covered by the City Life budget, and CEO contingency funds will be sought if needed. Security is in place under a current City of Sydney contract for general security services.

There are currently eight tents and 16 people sleeping in the park.

### **PRIVACY COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE WARFIELD REPORT (S103141)**

33. By Councillor Mandla

#### **Question**

Recently, I have been informed that the Information and Privacy Commission will be referring a recommendation regarding access to the Warfield Report to the City of Sydney.

1. Will Councillors be informed of the Privacy Commissioner recommendation on the Warfield Report?
2. Can Councillors be assured that the City of Sydney will swiftly implement the recommendation of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in regard to the Warfield Report?
3. Following the recommendation of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, will the City of Sydney review any decisions made under delegated authority of the Principal Officer of Council (the CEO) concerning access to the Warfield Report?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City only recently received recommendations from the Information Commissioner regarding access to the Warfield Report. City staff are carefully considering the recommendations made by the Information Commissioner, as is the usual course of action.

### **SAFEWORK NSW ENQUIRY (S103141)**

34. By Councillor Mandla

#### **Question**

Recently, Councillors received an email from a member of staff in the Rangers' Unit that raised serious allegations concerning bullying by two senior members of staff. The employee who wrote this email said that they had been on suspension since 2015.

1. Has SafeWork NSW recently spoken with the City of Sydney regarding this matter or a similar matter?
2. Has SafeWork NSW been fully informed of this employee's concerns regarding bullying when they conducted their recent enquiry, whether it was for this matter or a similar matter?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City co-operates with any requests from SafeWork NSW.

**2016 ANZAC DAY PARADE (S103147)**

35. By Councillor Vithoukas

**Question**

Has the City been involved in discussions about the proposed route for the 2016 ANZAC Day Parade?

When will the decision be made and announced?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City of Sydney has been involved in discussions about the proposed route for the 2016 ANZAC Day Parade. The announcement about that route is a matter for the NSW Government and RSL NSW.

**COUNCIL RECYCLING (S103147)**

36. By Councillor Vithoukas

**Question**

It is reported on the City of Sydney website that:

“Sydneyiders recycled 20 tonnes of electronic waste in six hours at the City of Sydney’s latest e-waste collection day, helping keep unwanted household items out of landfill.

The popular quarterly event attracted 549 individual e-waste drop-offs with tall stacks of TVs, computers and printers collected alongside household items from vacuum cleaners to broken hairdryers.”

The e-waste service is proving a popular and efficient method for residents to ethically dispose of unwanted electrical devices and is widely promoted.

Is the Book a Pick Up service that can collect white goods, mattresses, furniture and metal items as popular and widely promoted?

How many bookings were made for this service in 2015? Does the City hope to increase the amount of mattresses, equipment, white goods and metal items it collects through this program in 2016 and, if so, by how much?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City received approximately 41,800 bookings for the weekly book a pick-up service in the 2015 calendar year. The popularity of the service is on the rise, growing by 25 per cent in 2015.

The City actively promotes the weekly free pick-up for bulky waste and ran a campaign in 2015 to increase awareness of the service, while also informing people that dumping is illegal and that fines can apply. In total, the campaign generated over 13,000 unique page views to the City’s website, up 200 per cent from the previous month. As a result, the City logged 3,765 pick-up bookings during the peak of the campaign, the highest monthly volume recorded to date.

The City's book a pick-up service is more popular and more widely used than the quarterly e-waste drop off events, with approximately 3,571 tonnes of bulky waste, 363 tonnes of metals and white goods, and 570 tonnes of mattresses collected in the 2015 calendar year. The City does hope to increase the amount of material collected through the book a pick-up service in 2016, which will feed into the resource recovery targets being developed as part of the City's Waste Strategy 2030.

### **CHINESE TOURISTS TO SYDNEY (S103147)**

37. By Councillor Vithoukas

#### **Question**

The business connections between Australia and China expand and Sydney is the country's leading business city. Business tourists are estimated to be worth 6.5 times more than leisure tourists.

How many business tourists from China visited Sydney in 2014 and 2015? How many are expected to visit in 2016?

What was the average economic benefit to Sydney's businesses, big and small, of business tourists from China in 2014 and 2015 and what is the forecast amount for 2016?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

Destination NSW has overarching responsibility for tourism in NSW. The latest information released by Destination NSW refers to tourism in Sydney generally, not specifically related to Chinese New Year:

<http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Sydney-YE-Sep-15.pdf>.

### **RAINBOW FLAG IN TAYLOR SQUARE (S103148)**

38. By Councillor Forster

#### **Question**

I note that, on 24 February 2014, a Lord Mayoral Minute celebrating Sydney's GLBTI community was carried unanimously, after Councillor Forster moved an amendment calling for the installation of a Rainbow Flag in Taylor Square in the five-year interim period while a permanent artwork is being developed.

At the Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on 20 February 2015, the Lord Mayor referred to the Taylor Square flag as a temporary installation.

At the Council meeting of 30 March 2015, after I moved a Notice of Motion, it was resolved to "(A) note a curatorial process is being developed which will lead to the selection of an artist to develop a permanent artwork for Taylor Square; and (B) request the Chief Executive Officer include a requirement that the Rainbow Flag be retained in Taylor Square as part of the process".

Since the flag's installation in October 2014, it has been warmly received by the public and is a clear and potent symbol of the Taylor Square and Oxford Street area's historical importance and ongoing connection to the GLBTI community.



At the Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on 19 February 2016, Councillor Green, representing the Lord Mayor, again described the Taylor Square flag as being “temporary.”

Could the Lord Mayor please confirm that the Rainbow Flag in Taylor Square is in fact a permanent installation, which will remain during and after construction of the permanent artwork?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The Rainbow Flag in Taylor Square is a permanent installation.