

ITEM 12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**CLEANING STAFF (S103142)**

1. By Councillor Scott

Question

In answer to a Question on Notice from 29 February 2016, the Lord Mayor stated that there was a favourable variance of \$1,026,518 against the budget for engaging contractors for cleaning services.

How many cleaning hours are provided for under the current contract with Quad Services Pty Ltd?

How many cleaning hours were provided for under the previous contract?

How many square metres are covered for under the current cleaning contract with Quad Services Pty Ltd?

How many square metres are covered for under the previous cleaning contract?

What is the explanation for the significant budget saving for the City's contractors for cleaning services?

Can the Lord Mayor guarantee that cleaners in City of Sydney buildings are paid, at a minimum, award wages?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Under the current contract, 103,006 hours have been allocated. The previous contract allocated 94,555 hours.

60,442 square meters are allocated under the contract. 60,407 square meters were allocated under the previous contract.

Brookfield Global Integrated Solution (the City's Property Service Provider) has undertaken a review of the current contract holder's payment arrangements with their employees. The review confirms that award wages are being paid.

SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING DWELLINGS (S103142)

2. By Councillor Scott

Question

The City's previous *Affordable Rental Housing Strategy 2009-2014* sets targets to increase affordable housing dwellings by 7,959 and social housing dwellings by 653 by 2030.

To date, how many new affordable housing dwellings and social housing dwellings have been created in the City of Sydney since the introduction of the *Affordable Rental Housing Strategy 2009-2014*?

What is the remaining growth to 2030 for the City to achieve its targets of 7.5% of dwellings being social housing and 7.5% of all dwellings being affordable housing?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

At the time of the publication of the Affordable Rental Housing Strategy in 2009, there were an estimated total of 491 affordable rental housing dwellings, and 9,397 social housing dwellings in the City of Sydney.

The Green Square and Ultimo/Pymont schemes have contributed to the construction of over 850 affordable housing units, with an additional 550 dwellings in the development pipeline. The Southern Employment Lands scheme, which has recently been approved by Council and just commenced, will potentially add up to 900 units to our stock of affordable housing.

Post June 2015, there are estimated to be a further 654 affordable rental housing units either completed or in the development pipeline (ie, proposed/ DA lodged or approved/ under construction), including 104 units recently completed by City West in Green Square (Portman Street).

Remaining growth required to achieve the City's targets, based on June 2015 estimates for affordable rental and social housing, plus estimates of additional affordable rental housing units in the development pipeline are 37,000 dwellings by 2030, of which 550 will need to be social housing and 8,943 will need to be affordable.

Delivery of social and affordable rental housing is heavily reliant on collaborative action across all levels of government, in particular, state government support is needed for the City to facilitate supply through planning mechanisms at its disposal.

MAIL COMMUNICATIONS (S103142)

3. By Councillor Scott

Question

Since September 2014, by month, how many mail communications (direct mail or otherwise) over 1,000 items has the City sent, excluding notifications for development applications?

For each mail communication over 1,000 items, what was the cost and the topic covered by the mail item?

For each mail communication over 1,000 items, did any include the signature of the Lord Mayor and, if so, which items?

For each mail communication over 1,000 items, did any include a message from the Lord Mayor and, if so, which items?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City of Sydney has a legal obligation to inform all residents in its Local Government Area of its actions, policies and operations, the majority of which emanate from decisions of Council.

Since September 2014, approximately 550 direct mail and electronic communications projects of over 1,000 items have been produced, totalling in excess of 3.8 million individual communications delivered to letterboxes and inboxes at a cost of \$1.5M, covering production, printing and distribution. Topics have included capital works launches, community events, Green Square news, construction updates and consultations, as well as regular newsletters for Green Villages, City Business, Sydney Cycleways, KGV, What's On, Creative City and Sydney City News.

The Lord Mayor's signature appeared on only 84 communications, which included capital works launches, Green Square updates, Sydney City News, NYE event guides, City Farm consultations, some construction updates, Green Villages news, libraries newsletter, City Business newsletter, Sydney Cycleways newsletter and Sydney City News newsletter.

Sixty-eight communications included messages from the Lord Mayor on projects, including capital works launches, Green Square updates, Sydney City News, NYE event guides, City Farm consultations, City Business newsletter, Sydney Cycleways newsletter, Green Villages newsletter, Creative City newsletter and Sydney City News newsletter.

NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER (\$103142)

4. By Councillor Scott

Question

The City's forms relating to registering for the non-residential register includes a consent option for the City of Sydney Council Elections Unit to be authorised to share the information gathered on the form with other City of Sydney business units who may then contact the person/s or organisation/s on the form.

Which other City of Sydney business units have had in the past, currently have, or will have in the future, access to information supplied on the registration forms for the non-residential roll?

Who will be authorised to contact any person/s or organisation/s from the data gathered through the registration form for the non-residential roll?

When will contact be made to any person/s or organisation/s from the data gathered through the registration form for the non-residential roll?

How will contact be made to any person/s or organisation/s from the data gathered through the registration form for the non-residential roll?

What is the budgeted cost for contacting any person/s or organisation/s from the data gathered through the registration form for the non-residential roll?

Will the Lord Mayor, the Lord Mayor's Office or any other Councillors or their offices have access to, or be authorised to make contact with, individuals who have or may be eligible to be entered onto the non-residential register?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City offers a range of engagement opportunities to interested stakeholders on an opt-in basis (see <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/subscribe>).

The purpose of the Consent box on the Non-Residential Register Form A is to enable the City to engage with non-resident owners, rate-paying lessees and occupiers of properties within its boundaries.

Once the Non-Residential Register is established, the names and email addresses of individuals who have indicated that their information can be shared with other City business units will be given by the Council Elections Unit to the Marketing and Creative Services Unit. This Unit will email those consenting individuals to offer opt-in access to the range of e-newsletters, applications and RSS feeds distributed by the City to interested stakeholders. Costs associated with this process are negligible.

The Council Elections Unit is the only unit in the City with access to the information provided by individuals to establish the Non-Residential Register. No other business units within the City will have access to information provided by individuals to establish the Non-Residential Register, except in the case described above.

FIG AND WATTLE DEPOT (S103142)

5. By Councillor Scott

Question

On 14 December 2015, Council resolved that the Lord Mayor be delegated to commence negotiations with the NSW Government for the sale of the Fig and Wattle Street Depot for the provision of school and childcare facilities in Ultimo, noting that the proposed final sale price would need to be brought before Council for approval.

Can the Lord Mayor provide Council with an update on these negotiations?

Since 14 December 2015, have any discussions occurred between the Lord Mayor and representative/s of the NSW Government relating to the sale of the Fig and Wattle Street Depot?

Since 14 December 2015, have you sent or received any correspondence to or from the NSW Government relating to the sale of the Fig and Wattle Street Depot?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

On 17 December 2015, I sent a letter to the Minister for Education, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli as per the resolution of Council 14 December 2015

On 15 February 2016, I received a response from the Minister for Education.

On 14 March 2016, the CEO received a subsequent letter from Mr John Neish, Director of Planning and Property, NSW Department of Education.

SOCIAL PLAN (S103142)

6. By Councillor Scott

Question

How many and which recommendations, actions and outcomes of the *Connecting People, Building Communities: Social Plan 2006-2010* were successfully implemented?

How many and which recommendations, actions and outcomes of the *Connecting People, Building Communities: Social Plan 2006-2010* were partially implemented?

How many and which recommendations, actions and outcomes of the *Connecting People, Building Communities: Social Plan 2006-2010* were not implemented?

Broken down by year, what budget was allocated to the *Connecting People, Building Communities: Social Plan 2006-2010*?

Broken down by year, in the Long Term Financial Plan, what funding has been allocated to the *Social Sustainability Discussion Paper and forthcoming Action Plan*?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

In 2009, the NSW Government replaced the Management Plan and Social Plan requirements of Councils with the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

A comprehensive report on the actions delivered from *Connecting People, Building Communities: Social Plan 2006-2010* was provided to the then Council in 2009. That comprehensive report will be circulated to Councillors in the CEO Update.

On 30 June 2008, Council adopted Sustainable Sydney 2030, which has a considerable focus on social outcomes, most strongly articulated in Strategic Direction 5 (A lively and engaging city centre), Strategic Direction 6 (Vibrant local communities and economies) and Strategic Direction 8 (Housing for a diverse population).

The City incorporated Sustainable Sydney 2030 into its Integrated Planning and Reporting framework which has been endorsed by Council annually, as part of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

COMMUNITY CENTRES (S103142)

7. By Councillor Scott

Question

Since 2004, broken down by year, how many community centre upgrades has the City undertaken?

Since 2004, broken down by year, where has the City undertaken community centre upgrades and at what cost for each project?

Broken down by year, how many community centre upgrades does the City plan to undertake over the forthcoming four years?

Broken down by year, where will future community centre upgrades be undertaken and at what cost for each project?

How was the priority for each community centre upgrade determined and who was consulted?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Assuming comparable data is available for the 12 year period requested, I have asked the CEO for this information to be compiled. Due to the short time frame and the amount of work involved in extracting and compiling this information, a response will be provided to Councillors via CEO Update.

CHILD CARE CENTRES (S103142)

8. By Councillor Scott

Question

In answer to a Question on Notice from 23 June 2014, the Lord Mayor stated that the new child care centre at 277 Bourke Street, Darlinghurst, is expected to be completed by late 2015.

Is the new child care centre at 277 Bourke Street, Darlinghurst complete?

If not, what is the reason for the delay?

When will the child care centre at 277 Bourke Street, Darlinghurst be operational?

When will the City's five other new child care centres be opened?

The City is committed to spending \$55 million funding six new child care centres by 2016.

Will the Lord Mayor give a commitment that, if funds remain unspent by 2016, the \$55 million funding commitment will be maintained in future budgets for child care centres?

Will the Lord Mayor give a commitment that, if there are surplus funds available once the six child care centres are complete, these funds will be allocated to future investment in child care services in future?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

I have requested the CEO to prepare a report on these matters.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS STUDY (S103142)

9. By Councillor Scott

Question

When will the City of Sydney's Open Space and Recreation Needs Study be presented to Council?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

A report is currently being finalised.

STAFFING (S103142)

10. By Councillor Scott

Question

Is there currently a staffing freeze in any City of Sydney departments or teams?

If so, which departments or teams are affected and for how long?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

There is no staff freeze in place within the City of Sydney.

All positions are appropriately budgeted for the 2015/16 financial year, as approved by Council in June 2015.

It is good management practice to review all positions whenever they become vacant, to determine the optimal mix of resources to deliver the City's vision, programs, services and objectives. This work continues as normal, and positions continue to be advertised and recruited through the normal channels and procedures.

AQUATIC CENTRE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES (S103142)

11. By Councillor Scott

Question

Does the City facilitate any consultative committees relating to the City's aquatic centres?

If so, for which aquatic centres are there consultative committees and how often do they meet?

Have any issues been raised by any consultative committee? If so, by aquatic centre, what issues have been raised?

How are issues raised by consultative committees addressed?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Only the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre has a consultative committee which has been operating since the centre opened in 2007. Attendance by the community is limited and numbers fluctuate, in some cases attracting only two representatives. The City has previously advertised within the centre for additional community representatives, with no success. Each meeting is also attended by City staff responsible for the management of the contract. The issues raised at each meeting vary; the most common items are associated with general maintenance and presentation, updating of equipment and program scheduling.

The current arrangements provide regular opportunities for community feedback and suggestions regarding management and operation of the centres.

The City has a range of additional mechanisms to receive feedback from the community. Feedback is encouraged and welcomed through daily interaction with staff, telephone, website, email and a feedback form at reception, and the recent introduction of the service-wide 'open days'. Additionally, a customer service quality survey is also done annually through the University of South Australia.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS (S103142)

12. By Councillor Scott

Question

When will solar photovoltaic technology be installed and operational on the Green Living Centre, Newtown?

When will solar photovoltaic technology be installed and operational on the Bay Street Depot, Ultimo?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

A preliminary design has been completed for the Green Living Centre and installation is planned before the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

Council is currently considering tenders for upgrading of buildings at the Bay Street Depot. These works will be undertaken in three stages to enable City operations and services to continue. Completion of all stages is expected by December 2017. As buildings are progressively completed, those with suitable rooftops will have photovoltaic systems installed.

SOLAR HOT WATER INSTALLATIONS (S103142)

13. By Councillor Scott

Question

According to the *Green Report: July to December 2015*, 12 City of Sydney properties have had solar hot water systems installed.

Were any other City of Sydney properties considered for the installation of solar hot water systems?

If so, which properties?

Are there plans to extend the installation of solar hot water systems to any other City of Sydney properties?

If so, which properties and when will these be complete?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City of Sydney considers properties for solar hot water installation based on the following: results of an investigation into the existing hot water infrastructure and the capacity to convert them to solar hot water; operational needs; planned capital works program; consumption of hot water; available roof space; heritage impact and future use of the property.

The priority is to install photovoltaic (PV) panels where possible as it delivers greater benefits in terms of energy and greenhouse reductions.

For the City's new buildings, sustainability best practice is incorporated into building design.

HAYMARKET LIBRARY (S103142)

14. By Councillor Scott

Question

Since 2004, broken down by year, how much was spent on upgrades to or any other works on the current Haymarket Library?

What are the future plans for the City's current Haymarket Library?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

From 2009/10 to 2013/14, approximately \$581,000 was spent on Haymarket Library refurbishment. Options for the future use of Haymarket Library are yet to be determined and staff will investigate and report back to Council when options are finalised.

CROWN STREET CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS (S103148)

15. By Councillor Forster

Question

At the 15 October 2014 Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee, the Committee unanimously carried a recommendation to endorse widening the footway and installing bicycle parking on the eastern side of Crown Street, Surry Hills, just south of the intersection of Fitzroy Place. The bicycle parking is being installed in front of a cycling-themed café trading as Rapha Cycle Club, at 406-410 Crown Street.

In the October 2014 Committee papers, it was claimed that the City had received ongoing requests to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility on the eastern side of Crown Street, Surry Hills, just south of the intersection with Fitzroy Place.

According to the LPCTCC papers, Rapha Cycle Club hosts weekly club rides on weekends and special event rides which start and finish at the Rapha café on Crown Street and which regularly attract up to 100 cyclists.

The papers also state that the current bicycle parking arrangements on the footpath outside Rapha obstruct the footpath, which generates complaints from residents.

1. How many requests were made to the City to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility outside Rapha Cycle Club, Sydney at 406-410 Crown Street?
2. Who did those requests come from?
3. How many times have the Rapha Cycle Club weekly weekend rides and special event rides that start and finish at Rapha on Crown Street attracted 100 cyclists?
4. On average, how many cyclists attend the Rapha Cycle Club weekly weekend rides and special event rides?
5. How many complaints did the City receive about the previous bicycle parking arrangements on the footpath outside Rapha?
6. What was the nature of those complaints?
7. Why has construction of this project taken almost 1.5 years?
8. What other bicycle parking options were considered prior to this option being endorsed?
9. Did the City consult with the nearby Chinese Presbyterian Church about the use by Rapha of vacant space in Fitzroy Place for the installation of bicycle parking?
10. Did the City consult with surrounding businesses about the loss of a Loading Zone space on Crown Street in order to accommodate the bicycle parking?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Two requests were made to the City since May 2014, one on behalf of Rapha and one complaint from a member of the public about footpath obstruction.

After LPCTCC approval, the proposal was submitted to the Central Sydney Traffic and Transport Committee (CSTTC) on 11 February 2015. On 11 March 2015, the [CSTTC Out of Session Resolution](#) directed the City to defer the works for three months to address RMS concerns. City staff subsequently met with RMS & TfNSW. On 1 June 2015, the [CSTTC Out of Session Resolution](#) required the City to implement an 11m loading zone nearby, subject to community consultation and LPCTCC endorsement. Community consultation was undertaken in June and July 2015 and the 11m loading zone was endorsed by LPCTCC on 19 August 2015. The project was then added to the City's Capital Works Program for construction.

Two other bicycle parking options were considered, in Fitzroy Place and Fitzroy Street. The City did not consult with the Chinese Presbyterian Church but did consult with surrounding businesses.

OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION NEEDS STUDY (S103148)

16. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 10 August 2015, in an answer to a Question on Notice, the Lord Mayor stated that a new Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study would be reported to Council 'later this year'.

When will the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study come to Council?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Please refer to my answer to Question on Notice 9.

RAINGARDENS (S103148)

17. By Councillor Forster

Question

1. How many raingardens are there currently in the City of Sydney LGA?
2. How much has the City spent on the installation of these raingardens?
3. How much does the City spend on the ongoing maintenance of these raingardens and what does the maintenance process involve?
4. In dollar terms, what is the economic benefit of these raingardens?
5. How many more raingardens are scheduled to be installed from now until 30 June 2017 and at what cost?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City is doing all we can to increase urban canopy and our environmental performance. Raingardens help deliver both. Raingardens filter rubbish, sediments, oils and other pollutants in stormwater run-off from roadways and paved surfaces. They contain water-tolerant plants which clean the stormwater before it flows into our drains and waterways. Raingardens provide a broad range of environmental and economic benefits to our community, creating more resilient, liveable and healthier communities.

The economic benefit of raingardens is an area of current research by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities (of which the City is a partner organisation).

There are currently 144 raingardens in the local government area costing \$2.66 million. The annual cost of raingarden maintenance is met through the budget for street and footpath maintenance and cleansing.

There are 20 raingardens planned to be constructed from now until 30 June 2017 at an estimated cost of \$386,340. This cost excludes water treatment systems delivered by developers and within open space, such as Harold Park, Victoria Park and The Drying Green, Green Square.