

ITEM 11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**ELIZABETH STREET BUS ZONE (S103141)**

1. By Councillor Mandla

Question

Recently, my office has been informed of taxis using the bus stop outside of Channel 7 on Elizabeth Street as a Taxi Rank.

1. Does the City of Sydney monitor the use of this bus shelter?
2. If so, what steps are taken to ensure that the bus shelter isn't used improperly?
3. Do Rangers patrol this bus shelter?
4. If so, have many penalty infringement notices been issued to ensure that this shelter isn't being used improperly and how many?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Illegal parking at bus stops in the Sydney CBD can be enforced by the City's Rangers as well as the NSW Police.
2. In 2012, the NSW Government introduced the Motorcycle Response Team (MRT) in the Sydney CBD to specifically target known trouble spots and reduce illegal behaviour.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) can also deploy dedicated bus marshals to monitor operations at bus stops that have repeated issues with illegal parking.

City Rangers take enforcement action by issuing a penalty notice when they observe a vehicle that is illegally parked.

3. City Rangers monitor the use of bus shelters as part of their regular compliance patrols. These patrols are undertaken in Elizabeth Street daily and also in response to concerns raised by the community.
4. City Rangers have issued a total of 60 penalty notices for bus zone offences in Elizabeth Street in the last twelve months.

BUSINESS VOTE (S103141)

2. By Councillor Mandla

Question

Could the Lord Mayor please answer:

1. What progress has been made on the implementation of changes to the City of Sydney Act in respect of the non-residential roll?
2. Will the non-residential roll be ready for the 10 September election?

3. What communication is the City having with the Minister's office on the state of the roll?
4. Is the City considering requesting that the election be deferred to 2017 to enable the roll to be compliant?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The implementation of the Non-residential Register and Rolls is the responsibility of the CEO. The CEO has previously committed to providing Councillors with regular updates on progress with the implementation of the Register and Rolls. The CEO advises the next update will be provided shortly.

VACANT DWELLINGS IN THE CITY OF SYDNEY LGA (S103147)

3. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

A recent study by the University of NSW's City Futures Research Centre noted that 2011 Census figures showed one in seven dwellings were vacant in the Sydney CBD, Haymarket and The Rocks.

1. How many Council-owned buildings are currently vacant in the City of Sydney LGA?
2. Does the City have information about the number of empty dwellings that are currently in the City of Sydney LGA under private ownership?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Vacant buildings are those City-owned buildings that are currently physically empty but otherwise occupiable. The City has two buildings available for leasing, Bellevue Cottage and Pirrama Park Café.
2. The City does not have information about the number of empty dwellings currently in the City of Sydney LGA under private ownership.

The City's Floor Space and Employment Survey (FES) captures data on dwelling numbers and residential floor space, however, information on the number of empty dwellings is not captured.

This is due to a number of factors, including resourcing as well as the difficulty in capturing this type of data accurately, given dwellings can be vacant at any one point in time for a number of reasons, including occupants being away on holidays and transitioning arrangements between leases or sales.

LIGHT RAIL BUSINESS ACTIVATION WORKSHOPS (S103147)

4. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

During 2015, the City facilitated workshops for the Business Activation Program for South East Light Rail.

1. What dates were these workshops held?
2. Who attended these workshops?
3. Were any small business owners present at the workshops?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. TfNSW led and facilitated the following workshops:
 - 10 April 2015: CBD business stakeholder workshop
 - 16 July 2015: Surry Hills business stakeholder workshop
 - 4 November 2015: 'Light rail – what to expect as a small to medium business' drop-in session
 - 2 March 2016: Light rail business and community drop-in session (CBD North)
2. Attendance at workshops:
 - 10 April 2015: CBD business stakeholder workshop
 - Invited: 112 approx. (CBD business stakeholders, including large and small businesses)
 - Attended: 47 approx
 - 16 July 2015: Surry Hills business stakeholder workshop
 - Invited: 300 approx. (all Devonshire Street businesses door-knocked) + invites sent to TfNSW Surry Hills Light Rail Business Forum members
 - Attended: 27 approx.
 - 4 November 2015: 'Light rail – what to expect as a small to medium business' drop-in session
 - Invited: 5,000 (all businesses on the light rail alignment incl. CBD and Surry Hills letter-dropped)
 - Attended: 23 approx.
 - 2 March 2016: Light rail business and community drop-in session (CBD North)
 - Invited: 2,000 invites letter-dropped + over 500 door-knocked (including businesses on George St, from Circular Quay – Grosvenor Street and The Rocks precinct). *Co-ordinated by Transport for NSW.*
 - Attended: 40 approx.

3. Yes, these workshops have focused on small to medium size businesses.

LIGHT RAIL BUSINESS ACTIVATION PROGRAM (S103147)

5. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

Two activation zones on George Street have been identified for 'light touch place making' regarding the construction of the CBD light rail – Zone 4 and Zone 8.

1. Were any businesses on or in Zone 4 and Zone 8 consulted regarding the pop up furniture in George Street as a strategy for business activation?
2. Who was consulted regarding this strategy for business activation?
3. Was the strategy a decision solely from the City of Sydney?
4. Is Transport for NSW contributing any funds for this strategy and, if so, how much?
5. What is the future budget contribution estimates from the City of Sydney in regard to business activation programs for CBD and South East Light Rail construction?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Two activation zones on George Street have been identified for 'light touch place making' regarding the construction of the CBD light rail – Zone 4 and Zone 8.

Yes, businesses were consulted by TfNSW in the 10 April 2015 CBD Business stakeholder workshop and further consultation will be done now that a detailed program has been worked up.

If requested by TfNSW, the City proposes to install tables and chairs (space permitting and following consultation) from late April (subject to Council endorsement in April).

TfNSW seeks to use the space from mid-April for their own activation.

TfNSW and the City will be door-knocking businesses in Zone 4 this week to consult on the proposals.

Note: Due to changes in the light rail construction program, the Zone 8 activation space is no longer be available. We are currently working with TfNSW (and the Transport Management Centre) to find future spaces along George Street.

2. Business workshops held in 2015 (mentioned above) sought to gather creative ideas from businesses on how to keep the city activated during construction and support local businesses. The strategy is based on these ideas.

In addition, TfNSW has consulted with a range of businesses, major public event producers and other business chambers across the light rail construction alignment.

Locations for the activations are in areas where they can be of benefit to small businesses impacted by the works, and are subject to availability and approval by the Transport Management Centre.

3. No. The Business Activation Program is being led by the TfNSW CBD Coordination Office and is being delivered in partnership with the City of Sydney and a number of other agencies, such as the Office of the Small Business Commissioner.

The following organisations and peak bodies have been regularly consulted on TfNSW's Business Activation Strategies and Program:

- City of Sydney
 - Randwick City Council
 - Department of Premier and Cabinet
 - Office of NSW Small Business Commissioner
 - Sydney Business Chamber
 - Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority
 - Tourism Accommodation Association
 - Property Council of NSW
 - Retail Council
 - Australian National Retail Association (NSW)
 - Tourism and Transport Forum
 - Destination NSW
4. Yes. TfNSW has an annual Business Activation Budget, dedicated internal resources and is fully funding a number of activation strategies currently in development and production.

TfNSW fully funded the George Street Christmas activation program and associated media campaign.

5. Refer to confidential Attachment A – Tender Evaluation Summary of the Tender report 'Pop up furniture in George Street during the CBD and South East Light Rail construction'.

NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER (S103147)

6. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

1. How many businesses have been contacted to date to inform them of their compliance obligations for the City of Sydney Non-Residential Register?
2. How many registrations for the City of Sydney Non-Residential Register have been confirmed so far?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The implementation of the Non-residential Register and Rolls is the responsibility of the CEO. The CEO has previously committed to providing Councillors with regular updates on progress with the implementation of the Register and Rolls. The CEO advises the next update will be provided shortly.

STREET ART POLICY (S103142)

7. By Councillor Scott

Question

In response to a question on notice on Monday 9 December 2013, regarding when the City's forthcoming street art policy will be presented to Council, the Lord Mayor responded that "The project is well underway and I have been advised that the findings will be presented to Council in early 2014."

In response to a question on notice on Monday 12 May 2014, regarding when the City's forthcoming street art policy will be presented to Council, the Lord Mayor responded that "The new draft policy will be presented to Council in 2014."

In response to a question on notice on Monday 8 December 2014, regarding when the City's forthcoming street art policy will be presented to Council, the Lord Mayor responded that "It is proposed to finalise the present the Street Art and Murals Discussion Paper and Action Plan for Council to consider in early 2015."

In response to a question on notice on Monday 27 April 2015, regarding when the City's forthcoming street art policy will be presented to Council, the Lord Mayor failed to provide a date for when the policy will be presented to Council.

In response to a question on notice on Monday 10 August 2015, regarding when the City's forthcoming street art policy will be presented to Council, the Lord Mayor failed to provide a date for when the policy will be presented to Council.

When will the City of Sydney's Street Art Policy be presented to Council?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

As has been previously advised, street art raises many complex issues including planning, compliance and legal questions, on which divergent views may exist.

Staff are continuing to work through these to ensure a carefully considered position is arrived at.

MOORE PARK TREES (S103142)

8. By Councillor Scott

Question

Would the Lord Mayor consider withholding contributions agreed to under the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Sydney and Transport for NSW for the CBD and South East Light Rail Project until the NSW State Government abandons its plans to remove trees in Moore Park due to be removed as part of the CSELR project?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The CEO has advised me that the trees to be removed are located on land controlled by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. There is no provision in the development agreement between the City and TfNSW for the withholding of the City's contributions in relation to the removal of trees on this land.

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND SALE (S103142)

9. By Councillor Scott

Question

What are the legal and regulatory consents required for an organisation to produce, supply, and/or sell electricity?

Has the City of Sydney applied for any legal or regulatory consents to produce, supply, and/or sell electricity?

If so, when did the City of Sydney apply for any such consent and was consent granted?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Planning consent may be required under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for electricity generating works, depending on the scale of the works and their location. Technical approval is required in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Supply Act to connect electricity generating works to the public electricity grid.

Under the National Electricity Rules, organisations may be able to set up private, or embedded networks. Examples can be found in some major shopping centres and many caravan parks. Most embedded networks need regulatory approval.

Sale of electricity from one customer to another may require regulatory approval, however, there is a general exemption for government and community organisations that sell energy to others secondary to their core functions. The City has not been involved in any projects where it has been necessary to obtain regulatory approval for supply or sale of electricity.

The City has applied for and obtained planning and technical approvals for a number of electricity generation projects, such as the Town Hall House trigeneration project. The City sought approval for this project in August 2015 and obtained consent in December 2015.

LOCAL PEDESTRIAN, CYCLING AND TRAFFIC CALMING COMMITTEE (S103142)

10. By Councillor Scott

Question

What is the delegation arrangement between Council and the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee?

Which items carried at a meeting of the LPCTCC are referred to Council for final approval?

If items are not referred to Council, how are they approved?

Does the Lord Mayor continue to support these arrangements?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) is primarily a technical Committee, introduced by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), to advise Council on traffic, parking and road safety issues within the Local Government Area.

Further information on the processes and administrative arrangements associated with the LPCTCC may be found here:

- RMS – “*Guide to the Delegation to Council’s for the Regulation of Traffic*”:
http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/partners-suppliers/documents/technical-manuals/lcguidev13_i.pdf
- City of Sydney – “*Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee – Policies and Procedures of Committee*”:
http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/243494/150914_COUNCIL_ITEM44_ATTACHMENTA.PDF

These arrangements have been in place for some years with the approval of Council, which most recently approved them in September 2015.

BANK STREET PARK, PYRMONT (S103142)

11. By Councillor Scott

Question

Has the City conducted any community consultation on the proposed Bank Street Park, Pyrmont?

Does the City have any future plans for community consultation regarding the future of the Bank Street, Pyrmont precinct?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Urban Growth NSW has recently indicated that it intends to deliver the park as part of the Bays Precinct infrastructure.

The City expects Urban Growth NSW to fully consult the community about its plans for this open space

Therefore, there is no commitment by the NSW Government or timeframe for a transfer of the Bank Street land to the City.

PUBLIC HOUSING FORUMS AND PUBLICATIONS (S103142)

12. By Councillor Scott

Question

Since March 2014, how many City of Sydney public housing forums have been organised?

During this time period, how many have had State and Federal Members of Parliament as invited guests?

Since March 2014, how many City advertisements or leaflets contain the names and/or photos of State or Federal members of Parliament?

Since March 2014, broken down by flyer and advertisement, what is the total cost of advertising and the distribution of leaflets to residents to publicise such public housing forums?

Since March 2014, broken down by flyer and advertisement, what is the total cost of advertising and the distribution of leaflets to residents to publicise other public housing forums?

Can the Lord Mayor provide copies of any advertising or leaflets for public housing forums to Councillors that name State or Federal Members of Parliament, from March 2014 to March 2016?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Twenty-seven forums have been organised.

Invited State and Federal Members of Parliament are as follows:

- 2014 – Alex Greenwich x 6 / Ron Hoenig x 4
- 2015 – Alex Greenwich x 5, Ron Hoenig x 2, Jenny Leong x 5, Jamie Parker x 2
- 2016 – Alex Greenwich x 2, Jenny Leong x 2, Ron Hoenig x 1

Thirteen advertisements/leaflets contained names and/or photos of State or Federal members of Parliament.

Costs as are as follows:

Suburb	Quantity	Print Cost	Total
Surry Hills x 3	3,150	630.00	
Woolloomooloo x 5	5,000	1,000.00	
Waterloo x 5	13,000	2,600.00	
Redfern x 4	6,400	1,280.00	
Glebe x 4	6,400	1,280.00	
Millers Point x 5	2,500	500.00	
			\$7,290.00

Copies of any advertising or leaflets will be distributed to Councillors via the CEO Update.

WILSON SECURITY (\$103142)

13. By Councillor Scott

Question

Recent media coverage has revealed documents allegedly implicating Wilson Security in business activities relating to off-shore tax havens, money laundering activities, and corrupt behaviour.

Does the City of Sydney currently have any contracts with Wilson Security or its parent company or any subsidiary companies?

Does the City of Sydney currently have any contracts with other companies or parent companies or any subsidiary companies implicated in recent media about off-shore tax havens?

If so, when do each of these contracts expire?

In light of these events, what actions, if any, will the Lord Mayor undertake to ensure that the City's ethical and legal obligations are being met in relation to any existing contracts with Wilson Security and any other companies, parent or subsidiary companies implicated?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Yes, the City is currently a party to three contracts with Wilson entities.

Staff are not aware of any contracts of this nature.

The contracts with Wilson entities expire on 20 June 2020, 31 March 2019 and 1 June 2016.

The contracts are managed by staff to ensure that the contractors comply with each contract. Procurement staff will meet with the contractors shortly to discuss the concerns raised.

CITY OF SYDNEY - COMMISSIONED NATIONAL TRANSPORT SURVEY (S103148)

14. By Councillor Forster

Question

The City of Sydney recently commissioned the Local Government Research Group to conduct a national survey of people's use of various transport modes, focused particularly on whether or not they or members of their households were cyclists.

1. What was the purpose of the national survey?
2. What was the cost of the national survey?
3. When are the results of the national survey to be made public?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The Australian Bicycle Council (part of Austroads) is responsible for implementation of the National Cycling Strategy and its national target of doubling cycling participation. To measure progress, the Australian Bicycle Council undertakes an annual national cycling participation survey in March. Councils can opt in to have a larger, statistically significant, sample size used in their LGA, providing a local dataset comparable with the national survey and other LGAs. The cost is \$9,500. The results of the national cycling participation survey are published on the Australian Bicycle Council website each July. Last year's results are at www.bicyclecouncil.com.au/publication/national-cycling-participation-survey-2015

FIG AND WATTLE DEPOT (S103148)

15. By Councillor Forster

Question

In an answer to a March 2016 Question on Notice about the Fig and Wattle Depot, the Lord Mayor stated that, on 15 February 2016, she received a response from the Minister for Education, presumably in relation to the proposed sale of the Fig and Wattle Depot. The Lord Mayor also stated that, on 14 March 2016, the CEO received a subsequent letter from Mr John Neish, Director of Planning and Property, NSW Department of Education. What was the exact content of these letters?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The letters referred to will be circulated to Councillors in the CEO Update.

CROWN STREET CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS (S103148)

16. 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 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?
2. On average, how many cyclists attend the Rapha Cycle Club weekly weekend rides and special event rides?
3. 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?
4. Has the City of Sydney now requested Rapha Cycle Club no longer use a temporary bike hanging rack for bicycles parked outside its premises, but instead use the Council installed permanent bicycle racks?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City does not collect data on the number of cycle club rides organised by private businesses, including Rapha Cycle Club. A report to the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee in 15 October 2014 noted that the Rapha hosts weekly club rides on weekends and special event rides regularly attract up to 100 cyclists.

In August and September 2014, the City consulted with the community for a proposal to reduce the size of a loading zone on Crown Street, between Fitzroy Place and Fitzroy Street, by four metres to accommodate the bicycle parking and footpath widening. Four objections were received in relation to the reduction in the size of the loading zone.

In response to the objections, and a response from the Central Sydney Traffic and Transport Committee (CSTTC), the City again consulted in June and July 2015 for the implementation a new 11 metre loading zone on Crown Street south of Fitzroy Street.

The footpath widening and associated loading zone changes have increased the overall length of loading zone space on this section of Crown Street by seven metres.

The City has made no requests to businesses or residents about the use of temporary bike racks.

CAR SHARE MEMBERSHIP (\$103148)

17. By Councillor Forster

Question

In a Relevant to Memo dated 21 March 2016, car share membership growth figures were displayed in a graph with data starting from January 2009 to January 2015. Can the Lord Mayor please provide car share membership growth figures from January 2009 to March 2016?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The graph below shows growth in car share membership from January 2009 to February 2016 (the latest period for which data is available). There were 30,044 car share members within the City of Sydney at February 2016.

Figure 1 Car Share Membership January 2009 to March 2016

