

ITEM 12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER FOR THE CITY OF SYDNEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2016 (S129276)**

1. By Councillor Vithoukias

Question

The City of Sydney CEO was tasked with the responsibility of preparing the Non-Residential Register for the 10 September 2016 elections.

The CEO update of 12 August 2016 detailed that the City wrote directly to 138,000 property owners, corporations, occupiers, sole traders and others informing them of their potential right to vote, and asking them to register. The City received more than 40,000 responses with a total of 22,972 non-residential voters verified by the Electoral Commission.

1. What was the breakdown, in numbers, of owners, corporations, occupiers and sole traders in the more than 40,000 responses received by the City of Sydney?
2. What was the breakdown, in numbers, of owners, corporations, occupiers and sole traders in the 22,972 non-residential voters verified by the Electoral Commission?
3. How many corporations nominated more than 1 or up to 2 representatives for the City of Sydney Non-Residential Register from the more than 40,000 responses received?
4. How many corporations nominated more than 1 or up to 2 representatives that were finally deemed eligible to vote as per the 22,972 verified by the NSW Electoral Commission?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The implementation of the Non-residential Register and Rolls is the responsibility of the CEO. The CEO has previously provided Councillors with regular updates on progress with the implementation of the Register and Rolls. The CEO has advised that a post-election update will be provided shortly.

NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER (S129269)

2. By Councillor Forster

Question

How many non-residential applicants submitted forms, either complete or partially complete, with the intention that they would be included on the non-residential register for the 10 September City of Sydney local government elections?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Please refer to my answer to Question on Notice 1 (above).

OXFORD STREET SAFETY AUDIT (S129269)

3. By Councillor Forster

Question

In June 2016, I moved a motion calling for a comprehensive safety audit of all the City of Sydney's properties along Oxford Street following an incident involving a 400kg keystone dislodging from a Council-owned property at 110 Oxford Street and falling onto the footpath below.

Council declined to conduct a safety audit but, in a foreshadowed resolution, voted to request the Chief Executive Officer to continue to inform Council of work being undertaken to manage, maintain and improve the City's Oxford Street properties through the CEO Update.

To date, no update has been provided, despite the fact that temporary supports have been installed under the awnings attached to Council-owned properties along Oxford Street.

What work has been undertaken to manage, maintain and improve the City's Oxford Street properties?

How much additional work is expected to be required and when is this scheduled for completion?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

I have been advised that a CEO Update on this matter will be provided to Councillors shortly.

1-5 FLINDERS STREET (T2 BUILDING) (S129269)

4. By Councillor Forster

Question

In February 2016, Council endorsed in principle the disposal of 1-5 Flinders Street and requested the CEO to conduct an Expression of Interest to identify suitable proponents to acquire, refurbish and use the property at 1-5 Flinders Street consistent with the City's objectives of urban renewal.

What is the current status of this Expression of Interest process?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

I have been advised that this matter is in progress. The outcomes of the Expression of Interest process and accompanying recommendations will be reported back to Council in due course.

WORK EXPERIENCE, WORK PLACEMENT AND INTERNSHIPS (S129275)

5. By Councillor Scott

Question

I refer to the City of Sydney's "Sydney New Year's Eve Media Internship" advertised on the websites pedestrian.tv and au.indeed.com published 4 October 2016.

1. How was the position advertised? Please advise on details of where, and for how long.
2. Has the City advertised this position or similar positions in previous years? If so, in which years? If so, on which platforms were the positions advertised?
3. By year, please advise any expenditure incurred for the position to be advertised, and other City expenditure incurred with regard to the position.
4. How many volunteers does the City have, by year? Please break down by City Unit.
5. How many internships does the City offer, per year? Please break down by City Unit.
6. What other unpaid positions within the City organisation does the City recruit for or host? If others, please details how many and in which City Unit they operate.
7. What is the process the City undertakes to assess whether a position is a volunteer, internship or paid position? Are external stakeholders consulted?
8. Please table the adverts of these positions as published for volunteer and internship positions.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. City staff contacted media and communications internship coordinators at local universities, including the University of Sydney, UTS and UNSW to advise them of the opportunity. The position was also advertised on Pedestrian.TV from 28 September to 10 October 2016.
2. In response to requests from university media and communications departments, the City has run a media internship program for Sydney New Year's Eve each year since 2007. The position was also advertised on Pedestrian.TV in 2015 and 2016.
3. The 2016 advertisement fee was \$49.
4. In 2015/16 the City had 1,873 recorded volunteers who worked across a range of community programs and major events. These included working in community gardens, tree planting on National Tree Day and Sydney Park bush regeneration. Major events such as the Sydney 2015 New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Art and About also attracted volunteers to be welcome hosts and provide spectator and visitor services.
5. The City offers five unpaid internship places each year: four places in Creative City for City New Year's Eve and one in Communications and Media.

The City does have some structured paid internship programs focusing particularly on areas of skill shortage or disadvantaged job seekers. These include graduate roles, UNSW Co-op Scholarship Program, ArtsReady and CareerSeekers. People in these programs are paid.

6. In 2015/16 the City hosted 61 vocational or work experience placements as part of a student's structured education program or where industry experience is a requirement of their study. These were hosted in the following business units:

Libraries & Learning 13
City Culture & Creativity 1
Greening & Leisure 1
Social Policy & Programs 45
Legal Services 1

7. The City's Work experience procedure is informed by the Australian Government Fair Work Ombudsman *Guidelines on work experience and internships*. These ensure members of the community who take up work experience opportunities at the City are treated fairly and in accordance with the law. A key consideration is whether the work experience or internship is learning focused.

The City's Volunteer Policy is also informed by Volunteering Australia's guidelines. Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.

8. Requested copies will be distributed via CEO Update.

NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER (S129275)

6. By Councillor Scott

Question

I refer to the City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll.

1. How many applications were sent for City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll?
2. How many applications were received for City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll?
3. Of those mailed who didn't respond, were any follow-up actions taken? Please detail any, and the time period of those actions taken.
4. Of the applications received for City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll, how many were allocated a vote?
5. Of the applications received for City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll, how many were not allocated a vote?
6. On what grounds were these applications rejected? What was the breakdown of the categories of grounds of rejection of these applications?
7. Of those mailed applications to vote, how many entities are state-owned?
8. Of those deemed eligible to vote, how many entities are state-owned?

9. When were ineligible applicants notified of their ineligibility?
10. How were ineligible applicants notified of their ineligibility?
11. What processes of appeal were available to ineligible applicants?
12. Were ineligible applicants advised of the availability of an avenue of appeal? How?
13. What time frame was afforded to ineligible applicants to pursue an appeal of a finding of ineligibility? And when was this time frame deemed to have commenced?
14. How else were applications for the City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll made available or distributed?
15. If applications for the City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll were made available at City or Lord Mayoral functions, please provide a list of these functions by date, and the cost to the City of these functions.
16. If applications for the City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll were made available at City or Lord Mayoral functions, please provide a list of other Councillors invited to these functions, broken down by date.
17. How many votes/registrations were allocated according to the deeming provisions, where no application was received?
18. How were the contact details to deem voters onto the register compiled?
19. What was the final breakdown of expenditure by the City of its collation and management of the Non-Residential Register and Roll?
20. What monies have been allocated for 2016/17 and 2017/18 for the maintenance of the Register and Roll? How many staff have been allocated to this task, and what duties will they undertake?
21. How many of those on the City of Sydney's Non-Residential Register and Roll failed to vote?
22. Of those who failed to vote, who has responsibility for fining the entities?
23. If the City, please advise when they will be fined?
24. Where do the funds from the fines go?
25. How many complaints has the City received about the Non-Residential Register and Roll?
26. When complainants contacted the City, how did the City advise them to proceed?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Please refer to my answer to Question on Notice 1.