

**ITEM 15. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****GUNYAMA PARK AND AQUATIC CENTRE COSTS (S129269)**

1. By Councillor Forster

**Question**

According to the Quarter 4 2013/14 Capital Works Summary of individual projects greater than \$5 million, the Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre total budget was \$60.6 million.

According to the Quarter 1 2016/17 Capital Works Expenditure Summary, the total forecast for the same project had risen to \$92.2 million.

Can the Lord Mayor please explain the \$31.6 million cost blow-out?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

In the Quarter 4 2013/14 Capital Works Summary of individual projects greater than \$5 million, the Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre total budget was \$82.1 million. The two main components of the project were listed as \$60.6 million and \$21.5 million.

The indicative allocation of funds budgeted in 2013/14 was made prior to undertaking investigations, initial design work and final scope definition of the project.

On 3 November 2014, Council endorsed the design and scope for Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre. This followed an open architectural design competition conducted by the City. The project scope included:

- Outdoor 50m swimming pool
- Indoor 25m program pool
- Hydrotherapy pool
- Gym
- Full-size synthetic multipurpose sports field
- Outdoor circuit training
- Playground
- Multipurpose 'dry program' rooms
- Creche
- Cafe
- Public amenities and change rooms
- Seating, including spectator seating

Subsequently, Council endorsed the updated project scope for Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre at its meeting of 29 February 2016 and noted the financial implications in the confidential attachment. This included the transfer of some funds from other environmental programs to incorporate trigeneration plant and photovoltaics into the overall project.

The current budget is \$92.2 million. This budget has been benchmarked against other completed aquatic centre projects such as Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre and the Peninsular Aquatic Recreation Centre (Frankston, Victoria) taking into account building cost rates for the different time periods (escalation), differences in scope for wet and dry facilities provided at each site and the addition of the construction costs for Gunyama Park.

**KELLETT STREET LANDSCAPE PLAN (S129269)**

2. By Councillor Forster

**Question**

According to the CEO Update of 2 September 2016, the City will be developing a landscape plan for the public open space in Potts Point on the corner of Roslyn Street and Ward Avenue as well as the disused Annex at 66-68 Kellett Street. The landscape plan is intended to be exhibited as part of the development application process and it is expected that the new landscaped area may be suitable for a small footway licence from the adjoining premises that could activate the street frontage.

Can the Lord Mayor please provide further details with regard to the timeframes for the development application process and associated landscape plans?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The Development Application is to be lodged early in the new year. The landscape plan will be prepared as part of this application. The DA documentation is currently being prepared.

**HERBERT STREET NEWTOWN WORKS (S129269)**

3. By Councillor Forster

**Question**

In early 2016, works were completed on a portion of the eastern side of the footpath in Herbert Street, Newtown, including a re-laying of the footpath, construction of a new gutter and tree root trimming, to address flooding concerns associated with a nearby residence.

What date were these works first placed on the City's works register to address the flooding concerns?

In November 2016, works had commenced on the western side of Herbert Street, including the creation of green verge space and the installation of a new footpath.

Can the Lord Mayor please provide further details of this streetscaping work in Herbert Street, Newtown? Will the recently installed footpath on the eastern side of the street be dug up again to install green verge space on this side of the street? If so, why were these works not done in conjunction with the work undertaken in early 2016 to address the original flooding concerns?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The localised drainage work undertaken at the south-eastern end of Herbert Street was urgently required to address localised flooding in the area. This work was added to the City's works register in July 2015 and the construction was completed in April 2016.

The footpath upgrade works include the reconstruction of the concrete footpath on both sides of the street and the installation of a green verge. A design for the footpath upgrade was completed in July 2016 and construction commenced in November 2016.

An 18 square metre section of footpath that was installed as part of the recent drainage repair work will be removed for the installation of a green verge. The priority drainage work was completed first to allow a specialist drainage contractor to mitigate the localised flooding issue prior to commencing the footpath upgrade works.

### **TRIGENERATION (S129269)**

**4. By Councillor Forster**

#### **Question**

What is the final total cost of the Town Hall trigeneration project, including spending on consultants, studies and any capital works before and after the adoption of the revised trigeneration strategy in June 2013?

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

In June 2013, the City revised its tri-generation strategy to focus on cost-effective projects 'behind the meter' due to regulatory and market changes which mean tri-generation precincts are currently not financially viable.

The Town Hall tri-generation project is forecast to contribute 1,400 tonnes of carbon abatement per year. This equals a 3% reduction in the City's baseline organisational emissions. The cost of abatement is comparable to green power, meaning the project is a cost-effective way of cutting the City's greenhouse gas emissions towards the 70 per cent target by 2030.

The total cost of the Town Hall tri-generation project is \$13.39 million, and the net cost to the City is \$10.34 million following receipt of a \$3.05 million grant from the Commonwealth Department of Industry Innovation and Science under the Community Energy Efficiency Program.

This cost includes feasibility assessments, project specifications, expert electrical environmental commercial and other advice, external reviews, regulatory and development approvals, design costs, equipment costs, building works, delivery/installation costs, building management system upgrades and testing.

The project also includes some works which are not directly required for trigeneration, but which are necessary as part of ongoing building modernisation. Chief among these are installation of a new main whole-of-building switchboard, construction of a code-compliant switch-room, associated bulk wiring changes and comprehensive building re-metering.

The forecast average annual saving over the project lifetime is calculated at more than \$200,000. The annual saving will vary from year to year, due to fluctuations in the price of the different energy sources used at Town Hall House.

### **CITY'S BASKETBALL COURTS (S129275)**

**5. By Councillor Scott**

#### **Question**

I refer to City-owned or managed basketball courts.

1. How many basketball courts does the City own, manage or is responsible for maintaining?
2. How many basketball hoops and nets is the City responsible for maintaining?
3. How often are the basketball hoops and nets replaced?
4. How much does the replacement of those hoops and nets cost?
5. Please detail, by basketball court, when hoops, and nets, are due to be replaced.

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

1. The City manages 26 courts used for basketball. This is made up of:
  - 12 outdoor full-size basketball courts
  - 2 outdoor half-size basketball courts
  - 7 outdoor practice keys/courts
  - 5 indoor full-size courts

The City is soon to commence construction of four new multi-purpose courts (two indoor, two outdoor) at Perry Park, Alexandria which will be suitable for playing basketball.
2. Forty-five hoops. Nets are generally only installed at indoor venues.
3. Hoops are robust and have a long life. These are replaced infrequently only once signs of wear are evident. Nets do not last long in outdoor environments, with both synthetic and metal nets having a short life and presenting a risk as they deteriorate. Nets are often not used or replaced on outdoor courts as nets are not essential to the functioning of the basketball hoop.
4. Hoop replacement is approximately \$75, net replacement approximately \$25 plus installation of approximately \$60 (prices exclude GST).
5. Please refer to my answer to part 3 of this question.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY (S129275)**

6. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

1. What was the total cost of the 2016 Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party, broken down by printing costs, catering costs, staff costs, venue hire, and any other expenses?
2. What is the total budget of the 2017 Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party, broken down by advertising costs, printing costs, catering costs, staff costs, venue hire and any other expenses?
3. How many invitations are issued? Please provide a breakdown of which organisations or individuals are invited to also send invitations (or request the Lord Mayor to send invitations on their behalf) and how many?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City's New Year's Eve Party, which I host, is an event to thank sponsors and community representatives. The event provides a venue to broadcast the fireworks live to one billion viewers across Australia and around the world. It functions as a media hub and an executive command post for the event and is used by media partners for their broadcasts. This international coverage helps deliver considerable economic benefit to Sydney, estimated to be worth \$133 million.

The event is attended by around 1,200 representatives of sponsors and our City community, including people from business, arts and community organisations, journalists, architects, City of Sydney panel members and Councillors, as well as local government representatives, State and Federal Government Ministers and agency staff.

On New Year's Eve, I also host the annual Picnic in the Botanic Gardens. It's an invite only event for children with special needs and their families and carers.

The figures for 2016 below are forecasts only, as several costs are yet to be finalised. The "Other expenses" category includes: audio and lighting, staging, temporary toilets and structures, furniture, access equipment and generators, fencing, artist fees, decorations, and security. The projected increase in costs from 2015 to 2016 is largely due to increased labour and hire costs due to New Year's Eve falling on a weekend.

<b>2015 Sydney New Year's Eve Party (last year)</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Actual cost (excluding GST)</b>
Printing costs	\$8,007
Catering costs	\$166,435
Staffing costs	\$85,459
Venue costs	\$37,064
Other expenses	\$374,221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$671,186</b>

<b>2016 Sydney New Year's Eve Party (this year)</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Forecast (excluding GST)</b>
Advertising costs	\$0
Printing costs	\$7,116
Catering costs	\$177,463
Staffing costs	\$97,425
Venue costs	\$37,000
Other expenses	\$444,504
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$763,508</b>

**CITY'S CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND FESTIVITIES (S129275)**

7. By Councillor Scott

**Question**

1. What was the total cost of the City's 2015 Christmas decorations and festivities, broken down by each event (detailing catering costs, staff costs, venue costs and any other expenses), decorations, advertising costs, and any other expenses?
2. What is the total estimated cost of the City's 2016 Christmas decorations and festivities, broken down by each event (detailing catering costs, staff costs, venue costs and any other expenses), decorations, labour costs, advertising costs, and any other expenses?
3. For the events that are invite only, how many invitations are issued? Please provide a breakdown of which organisations or individuals are invited to also send invitations (or request the Lord Mayor to send invitations on their behalf) and how many?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

1. \$2,186,496 – see breakdown
2. \$2,075,641 – see breakdown
3. The City's Christmas Concerts and celebrations are free and open to the public and no invitations are issued.

**Breakdown**

The Sydney Christmas program consists of the Martin Place Tree Lighting and Concert, Hyde Park Concert, Rushcutters Bay Concert, Rosebery Concert, Alexandria Concert, Surry Hills Concert, Christmas Choirs Program, and the City Decorations.

I also host stakeholder and community Christmas receptions, inviting over 4000 representatives of residents' groups, cultural organisations, community organisations, peak bodies, charities, environmental organisations, business chambers/partnerships, City businesses, City Advisory Panels and contractors, local state and federal government, educational institutions, Better Building Partnership, architects and property industry, consular staff, and others. On behalf of the City organisation, the CEO provides recommendations for the invitation list. Only councillors are asked to directly invite some guests.

<b>SYDNEY CHRISTMAS</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>2015 (Actual Costs in \$)</b>	<b>2016 (Forecast Costs in \$)</b>	
Catering costs	129,600	138,071	
Staffing costs (inc on-costs)	113,922	111,899	
Venue costs	510	0	
Decorations	1,402,992	1,292,646	
Advertising	89,128	60,000	
Other expenses	640,832	655,929	

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,376,984</b>	<b>2,258,545</b>
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Other expenses include: artists and entertainers fees, technical services including audio and lighting production, staging, fencing, equipment hire, sets, theming, security, traffic management, pyrotechnics, and licences.

### **SYDNEY LIGHT RAIL (S129275)**

8. By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

I refer to the City's advocacy for George Street light rail.

1. Since 2004, broken down by year, please provide details of the reports and advice the City has commissioned in relation to George Street light rail, including the organisation, author, and main topics covered. Please also detail the cost of each.
2. Since 2004, broken down by year, please detail the consultants the City has hired in relation to George Street light rail, including the key purpose of their work. Please also detail the cost of each.
3. Since 2004, broken down by year, please detail the key projects City staff have completed in relation to George Street light rail.

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

The Sydney Light Rail was identified as a project in Sustainable Sydney 2030, adopted by Council in 2008.

The City has since been advocating and recently assisting in the delivery of the Light Rail project.

Council is contributing \$220 million towards the public domain works associated with the light rail project. Council also approved additional staff positions to assist in the design and delivery of the Light Rail project.

The total cost expended by the City on the Light Rail project is \$68.2 million in contribution payments to TfNSW. A complete breakdown of the additional costs of associated studies, public domain plans and projects undertaken by the City could not be provided in the time available before this meeting, however, I have asked the CEO to provide relevant information to Councillors when available.

### **CULTURAL RIBBON (S129275)**

9. By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

I refer to the City's planned Cultural Ribbon Project.

1. Since 2004, broken down by year, please provide details of the reports and advice the City has commissioned in relation to the Cultural Ribbon Strategy, including the organisation, author, and main topics covered. Please also detail the cost of each.

2. Since 2004, broken down by year, please detail the consultants the City has hired in relation to Cultural Ribbon Strategy, including the key purpose of their work. Please also detail the cost of each.
3. Since 2004, broken down by year, please detail the key projects City staff have completed in relation to the Cultural Ribbon Project.

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The preparation of the Cultural Ribbon Strategy document was undertaken in-house by City Design Staff with support from the City Engagement Team and City Marketing Team.

The following were undertaken by external consultants.

Cultural Ribbon Workshop x 2 Facilitation and Strategy Advice  
Cost: \$10,395 (ex GST)

Cultural Ribbon Audience Research  
Cost: \$20,000 (ex GST)

**NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER AND ROLLS (S129276)****10. By Councillor Vithoulkas****Question**

The Audit Risk and Compliance Committee Annual Report to Council 2015/16 provides a brief assessment of the project management of the Non-Residential Register and Rolls (NRRR) project.

1. Will a further review be completed of the NRRR project?
2. What were the 'minor areas for potential improvement' highlighted in the audit findings?
3. Will the full findings of the NRRR assessment be released to Councillors upon request?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

I have been advised by the CEO that these matters will be addressed as a component of the post-election update.

**POST-ELECTION UPDATE NON-RESIDENTIAL REGISTER AND ROLLS (S129276)****11. By Councillor Vithoulkas****Question**

In answer to previous Questions on Notice for September and October, the CEO has indicated that a post-election update of the Non-Residential Register and Rolls will be released 'shortly'. Will this update occur during December 2016?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

I have been advised by the CEO that the post-election update will be provided to Councillors in early 2017.

**PARKING PERMITS IN THE CITY OF SYDNEY (S129276)****12. By Councillor Vithoulkas****Question**

1. How does the Council policy align with the customer service charter, in relation to communicating renewals and payments?
2. What are the processes Council takes prior to re-issuing existing residential permits to ensure databases are up to date?
3. What are the current policies, guidelines, criteria and procedures for reviewing infringements notices? What training is provided and to whom?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

1. Renewal notices are mailed to existing permit holders 4-6 weeks prior to the expiry date. The City is testing changes needed to introduce electronic notices. Payments can be made in person or on-line through a range of payment methods.
2. Prior to renewing or issuing a new parking permit, the City requests documentary evidence to prove the applicant is a resident of the LGA and attempts to verify the existence of any off street parking. If evidence of an off-street space is detected, the applicant may be asked to provide further evidence.
3. Infringements notices are processed and enforced by the State Debt Recovery Office (SDRO). If an applicant wishes to appeal against a parking infringement they are advised to contact the SDRO.

The City can review penalty notices it has issued. This process is governed by Division 2A, Part 3, of the Fines Act 1966. In reviewing penalty notices, the City relies on the guidelines published by the NSW Attorney General to ensure consistent decisions. Rangers who issue penalty notices are not involved in these reviews. A designated staff member reviews requests against the guidelines and makes recommendations. These are then reviewed by their manager, who has the delegated authority to withdraw penalty notices.

Staff who review requests are required to have extensive knowledge of parking legislation, Fines Act and Attorney General Guidelines. Knowledge is updated through regular collaboration and workshops with State Debt Recovery Office (SDRO); training in decision making (administrative law) and procedural fairness (natural justice); and updates from the unit's Quality Coordinator, City's Legal team, SDRO and NSW Department of Justice.

**NOISE AND SOUNDPROOFING FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY (S129276)**

**13.** By Councillor Vithoulkas

**Question**

Does the Council assist vibrant businesses in offering any advice in sound-proofing or best practice management to enable less repercussion for our residents and other businesses?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The City's Health and Building team provides technical advice on noise control at development application stage, and at pre-lodgement upon request, to manage any impacts on residents and the business community. The construction of new buildings and potentially noisy uses are managed by specifying design standards, emission levels and allowable activities.

Any noise impacts from existing uses are managed using the City's powers under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* to control noise pollution.

**PARKING AT HAROLD PARK TRAMSHEDS (S129276)**

**14.** By Councillor Vithoulkas

**Question**

Given that parking around the Harold Park Tramsheds is creating a lot of concern for our residents, what is Council considering for solutions for this problem?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

New attractions like the Harold Park Tramsheds generally have a higher than usual parking demand immediately following opening.

The City will continue to monitor parking conditions in the streets immediately surrounding the Tramsheds. Should there be a need to adjust parking restrictions in the future, the City will consult affected properties on the proposed changes and, if supported, the proposal will be referred to the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee for consideration.

**PARKING LIMITS, GREENS ROAD PADDINGTON (S129268)**

**15.** By Councillor Chung

**Question**

Residents of Paddington report that the four hour (4P) parking limits on the eastern side of Greens Road (Area 15) are frequently being breached by visitors to the area, with high rates of overstaying.

How many fines have been issued for the 4P parking area on Greens Road since installation on 28 April 2016?

Could you please provide a detailed list of:

- (a) number of penalty infringement notices issued;
- (b) type of penalty infringement notices issued;
- (c) number of warnings issued; and
- (d) roster of patrols by parking inspectors;

broken down into quarterly periods over the 12 months preceding 30 September 2016, concerning Area 15; and

broken down into quarterly periods over the six months preceding 30 October 2016, concerning the Greens Road 4P parking area.

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The data requested is being extracted by staff and will be reported to Councillors via the CEO Update.

**SYDNEY PARK LIFE (S129275)**

**16.** By Councillor Scott

**Question**

Has the Lord Mayor provided any comment or response to questions for a publication entitled Sydney Park Life? If so, on what date was the comment provided?

**Answer by the Lord Mayor**

In October this year, I provided a freelance journalist with responses to questions about Sydney Park. I was not aware of publication the answers would be printed in.