

ITEM 11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**SURRY HILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS (S129269)**

1. By Councillor Forster

Question

1. From 2004 to date:
 - (a) How many times has returfing occurred in Shannon Reserve in Surry Hills?
 - (b) What dates did returfing occur?
 - (c) What was the cost of each returfing project?
2. From 2004 to date:
 - (a) How many times has returfing occurred in Fred Miller Reserve in Surry Hills?
 - (b) What dates did returfing occur?
 - (c) What was the cost of each returfing project?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City renews and replaces worn turf in its parks to address heavy wear and the impacts of site conditions. We also regularly do maintenance to improve turf health including increased aeration, resting of turf, fertilising and irrigation. A new type of turf (Zoysia) has been used in Fred Miller Reserve that is more tolerant for shady sites.

1. Shannon Reserve has been returfed five times in the past 14 years:
 - (a) October 2006, \$8,600 – 100% of park returfed
 - (b) September 2012, \$8,900 – 75% of park returfed
 - (c) September 2013, \$5,900 – 50% of park returfed
 - (d) October 2014, \$16,900 – 100% of park returfed
 - (e) October 2016, \$6,000 – 50% of the park returfed
2. Fred Miller Reserve has been returfed five times in the past 14 years.
 - (a) August 2007, \$3,900 – 100% of the park returfed
 - (b) September 2013, \$5,900 - 100% of the park returfed
 - (c) November 2015, \$4,200 – 50% of the park returfed
 - (d) September 2016, \$10,600 - 100% of the park returfed

- (e) January 2018, \$8,900 – 50% of the park returned

THE CRESCENT SKATEPARK AND OPEN SPACE (S129269)

2. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 26 August 2013, Council adopted the Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan. On 8 December 2014, Council endorsed the scope of the proposed works arising out of the adopted the Master Plan. The proposed scope included the removal of all Council-owned buildings along The Crescent and the remediation of contaminated land to create new green open space. It also included a new skate space at the northern end of The Crescent and the clearing of the arches under the viaduct to connect the new open space to Federal Park.

On 26 October 2015, Council endorsed the refined concept design for the new open space at The Crescent and related works in Federal Park. Construction was to take place between October 2016 and June 2017.

To date, the space at the end of The Crescent remains empty and unused behind a locked fence. Balmain Rentals, the previous tenant, finished trading at the location on 2 April 2017.

1. Why is this project over 15 months behind schedule?
2. What is the current timeline for the construction of the new skate space and the clearing of the arches under the viaduct?
3. What is the expected completion date of this project?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

It has taken longer than anticipated to secure consent from the Heritage Office and the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS).

The Heritage Office required design changes to the proposed work near the heritage brick Light Rail viaduct. Design documentation was amended to address the requirements from the Heritage Office and their consent has now been received.

A narrow section of the skate space in the north of the project site sits over RMS land, for which their consent was also required. Formal notification from RMS was received on 24 January 2018, advising that the RMS do not provide concurrence to the works adjacent to The Crescent. The RMS cite that the proposed works may restrict their strategic network enhancements associated with WestConnex works. The project team is reviewing the design to consider options for locating the skate space within the City-owned land.

Construction is expected to begin late October 2018 and conclude in mid-August 2019.

CLOUD ARCH ARTWORK EXHIBITION PERIOD AND FUNDING (\$129272)

3. By Councillor Phelps

Question

Noting that:

1. the public exhibition period relating to the Cloud Arch public artwork, between 11 December 2017 and 19 January 2018 had three public holidays and fell across a typical shut-down period for households and workplaces; and
2. the \$2.5m contract awarded on 28 July 2014 will now be incorporated into an overall cost of \$11.3m;

I request that the Lord Mayor:

1. explain why D/2017/1652, relating to the Cloud Arch public artwork, took three months to be placed on exhibition for public comment after Council approved an increase in funding for the changes on 29 August 2017;
2. clarify what portion of the \$11.3m allocated to the artwork is related to the artist's contract and how much is expected for installation; and
3. confirm that no further increase in cost relating to the Cloud Arch artwork will be brought to Council, with an expectation that ratepayers will continue to foot the bill.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Following the Council resolution of 29 August 2017, the Development Application was prepared. In order to complete the Statement of Environmental Effects it was necessary to finalise a range of technical issues, including liaison with TfNSW.
2. The proportion of the \$11.3M allocated to the artist is 4.2 per cent. Councillors were provided with a confidential memo in August 2017 as part of the Council report describing the breakdown of the project costs.
3. The Expression of Interest is currently open for arch fabrication and installation. The successful bidders will then be subject to a tender process, at which time the final price will be known. Reviews by experienced quantity surveyors have been done to develop the estimated project cost, including allowances for contingencies.

D/2017/1705 (BOURBON AND EMPIRE HOTELS, 18-20 DARLINGHURST ROAD, 22-28 DARLINGHURST ROAD, 30-30B DARLINGHURST ROAD, 32-32A DARLINGHURST ROAD) PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION BETWEEN COUNCIL STAFF AND APPLICANT (\$129272)

4. By Councillor Phelps

Question

1. Could the CEO please explain what steps are being taken to respond to and incorporate community concerns raised in response to D/2017/1705?

2. Could the CEO explain the process of pre-submission consultation that Council staff engaged in with the developer prior to the submission being made?
3. Given the submission appears to breach Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Potts Point Heritage Conservation Area notes and recommendations, including height limits, natural lighting, traffic management, design excellence, respect for historical significance and community expectation, what did staff tell the applicant with regard to planning controls and the importance of adherence to these regulations?
4. Did staff engage in discussions about the relevant sections of the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Heritage Conservation Area recommendations relating to the above issues?
5. What further community consultation will the Council commit to, in addition to the Local Planning Panel's procedures, given the public interest and scale of this development?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Development Application D/2017/1705 for the redevelopment of the Bourbon Hotel and Empire Hotel sites ("the Bourbon DA") is currently in a preliminary stage of assessment. The DA has been notified and advertised (as required by Sydney DCP 2012) and advice has been sought from internal and external referral groups and the City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel.

It is good practice for applicants and land owners to seek pre-lodgement advice from City staff prior to submitting a formal application for development.

Prior to submitting the Bourbon DA, the Applicant sent drawings to City staff and requested a pre-lodgement meeting. City staff gave initial preliminary feedback and requested further detailed information regarding the design and planning non-compliances to better inform discussions. Unfortunately, the Applicant and their representatives did not respond to the pre-lodgement commentary prior to lodging the DA. As such, City staff did not have the further opportunity to provide detailed commentary on the proposal, particularly in relation to the objectives and compliance with planning controls, prior to lodgement.

Issues raised in all submissions (relevant to the DA) are considered by staff when assessing an application. The issues are required to be addressed in the assessment report that will be prepared for consideration by the determining body, most likely to be the Local Planning Panel (LPP) based on the cost of the proposed development. All persons who made a submission will be invited to attend the meeting of the relevant LPP and if they wish, address the panel members.

If amended plans are received during the assessment process and require re-notification under Sydney DCP 2012, then the community will be provided with an opportunity to make further comments on the amended plans.

KINGS CROSS TOILETS MAINTENANCE (S129272)

5. By Councillor Phelps

Question

1. Ongoing reports from residents have described the lack of maintenance and frequent closure of the three toilets at Fitzroy Gardens, adjacent to the Kings Cross Police Station. What evidence can the CEO provide to demonstrate that the toilets are being appropriately serviced with regard to:
 - (a) cleaning;
 - (b) plumbing; and
 - (c) vandalism?
2. Given these are the only toilets in the busy Kings Cross area, could the Lord Mayor please provide details of the following:
 - (a) What plans are in place to build more public toilet facilities for the Kings Cross/Potts Point area?
 - (b) What security measures could be put in place to reduce vandalism?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City's property services provider, Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions (BGIS), has confirmed that the toilets are being appropriately serviced.

There has been a reduction in cleaning complaints and the toilets are currently being cleaned five times a day. The toilets also have a self-cleaning mode.

Plumbing is part of the regular maintenance program. The vacuum pump, oil and air filter are changed monthly and the carbon tanks drained. The cleaners check and report any operational issues when onsite.

The majority of toilet breakdowns are caused by misuse, particularly flushing debris down the toilets. Electrical, re-lamping and door repairs are other common repairs.

To address the blockages, BGIS are working with their plumbing contractor on increasing the drainage pipe diameter with the aim of reducing blockages. If the piping diameter is increased this may reduce the frequency of toilet breakdowns.

Security for these toilets include the location beneath the Police Station and a CCTV camera covering the toilet entrances and surrounding area. Staff will continue to monitor, report and investigate incidents to determine if additional security is needed.

The City's Public Toilet Strategy recommended new automated public toilets on Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross. Feasibility studies were done to assess suitable locations and a preferred site has been identified on Bayswater Road between Darlinghurst Road and Kellet Street. Consultation is under way. These new facilities are budgeted and scheduled for installation during 2018/19 financial year.

LOCAL PLANNING PANEL, TRANSPARENT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (S129272)

6. By Councillor Phelps

Question

1.
 - (a) How will staff communicate community sentiment and submissions regarding development applications in the City of Sydney Local Government Area to the Local Planning Panel?
 - (b) Please provide any associated documents that will assist in the communication of the content of submissions to the Local Planning Panel. For example, a template that summarises the submissions which will be provided with the full file of submissions.
2. What assistance will staff provide the community representative/s to undertake their role?
3. What will be the future role of elected City of Sydney Councillors in conveying community expectations and commenting on development applications?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Information about submissions will be included in the relevant development assessment report to the Panel. Reports will be provided in the same manner as provided to the Planning and Development Committee and to the Central Sydney Planning Committee.

Persons who have made submissions (including Councillors) related to development applications will be notified of the date of the Local Planning Panel and will be able to register to address the Local Planning Panel meeting prior to a determination being made. This is the same as the current process for the Planning and Development Committee and the Central Sydney Planning Committee. Councillors remain able to make submissions in their personal capacity and on behalf of their constituents.

Council staff will provide administrative support to the Local Planning Panel.

NEW YEAR'S EVE – DAWES POINT (S129275)

7. By Councillor Scott

Question

I refer to the event held at Dawes Point on New Year's Eve.

1. When was the New Year's Eve event at Dawes Point first held?
2. Broken down by year since 2004, please detail the number of guests invited, and attending, the New Year's Eve event held at Dawes Point.
3. Broken down by year since 2004, please detail the total expenditure, broken down by category of expenditure, on the New Year's Eve event held at Dawes Point.

4. A CEO Update of 15 December 2017 states that the Dawes Point event is to “accommodate guests of sponsor and agencies who support New Year’s Eve.”

Please detail:

- (a) broken down by year since 2004, a full list of the sponsors and agencies included; and
- (b) the mechanisms by which invitations for this event are determined.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The Dawes Point viewing area has been in operation since 1996.

Tickets are negotiated as part partnership and agency agreements. The allocation is approved by the CEO.

In 2017, 1,483 tickets were issued to the Dawes Point event for contractual commitments to sponsors, government agencies and other stakeholders who supported the event. This included:

- Contractual sponsorship arrangements, including ABC, Australian Radio Network, Lion, Casella Wines, Amora and Grace Hotels, Coca Cola, Electric Canvas, APN Outdoor Media, the official coin partner (The Mint), and charity partner UNICEF—619 tickets.
- Government agencies, including Roads and Maritime Services, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Place Management NSW, Port Authority of NSW, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Royal Australian Navy, Transport for NSW, Ambulance Service NSW, Destination NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Police Force, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Trains, Office of Environment and Heritage, State Emergency Services, State Transit Authority, and Sydney Trains—308 tickets.
- External Creative Agency—100 tickets.
- Park Hyatt—150 tickets.
- Artists engaged for the event—30 tickets.
- Lord Mayor and Councillors—32 tickets.
- Working staff—67 tickets.
- Volunteers, including Dawes Point Welcome Hosts, Lord Mayor Picnic Welcome Hosts, Spectator Services Team Leaders—100 tickets.
- Other event contractual requirements (to gain value for money from suppliers, build relationships with key stakeholders and attract new sponsors)—77 tickets.

It would be an unreasonable impact on staff resources to collate 14 years of records.

NEW YEAR'S EVE – 2016-2021 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STRATEGY (S129275)

8. By Councillor Scott

Question

I note the Lord Mayor's comments to the media in May 2017 that the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve celebration would be "permanently cancelled as part of a re-prioritisation of City funds to support initiatives under the 2016-2021 Environmental Action Strategy."

Please detail:

1. the total funds budgeted on initiatives of the 2016-2021 Environmental Action Strategy in the:
 - (a) 2015/16 financial year;
 - (b) 2016/17 financial year; and
 - (c) 2017/18 financial year.

Please provide break down by year.

2. Please detail the budgeted expenditure on initiatives of the 2016-2021 Environmental Action Strategy for the:
 - (a) remainder of the 2017/18 financial year;
 - (b) 2018/19 financial year; and
 - (c) 2019/20 financial year.

Please provide break down by year.

3. Of this expenditure, how much has been redirected from expenditure on the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve celebration?
4. Please detail the cost of the 2017 Dawes Point New Year's Eve event.
5. Please advise how funds recovered from the cancellation of the Lord Mayor's celebration were directed towards initiatives of the 2016-2021 Environmental Action Strategy.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

\$2.4 million has been allocated within the 2017/18 operating budget and over the next five years to fund initiatives, in addition to business as usual, which were identified in the 2016-2021 Environmental Action Strategy.

In response to a Question on Notice in September 2017, I advised that not holding an event at the Opera House saved \$463,000 from the budget. The change also avoided a potential new cost. At the time the City set its budget, the Opera House advised us that the northern boardwalk was unavailable. The western boardwalk was considered but the Opera House advised that there would be a significant additional charge for its use.

The report to Council on Council on 8 May 2017, *Integrated Planning and Reporting Program and Budget 2017/18 – Public Exhibition* contained information about all the projects in the Environmental Action 2016 – 2021 Strategy and Action Plan which have been allocated funding this financial year. For information on how they will accelerate our action on climate change please refer to the Environmental Action 2016 – 2021 Strategy and Action Plan.

The budget for the 2017 Dawes Point event for New Year's Eve is as follows:

Description	Budget
Artist Fees – event	\$45,000
Artist Fees – cost-share with ABC	\$30,000
Technical Services	\$30,000
Barricade Hire	\$15,000
Catering	\$175,000
Decorations	\$20,000
Lighting Hire	\$40,000
Portaloos Hire	\$12,000
Security	\$28,000
Signage	\$2,000
Staging Equipment & Facilities	\$70,000
Equipment Hire	\$30,000
Traffic Management Costs	\$24,000
Other Event Costs	\$15,000
Printing & Photocopying	\$2,500
Staffing (temporary/casual staff)	\$83,000
TOTAL	\$621,500

PARKS (S129275)

9. By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Please detail parks planned to be created, or rejuvenated, in:
 - (a) the remainder of the 2017/18 financial year;
 - (b) the 2018/19 financial year; and

(c) the 2019/20 financial year.

Please provide break down by year.

2. Please detail, broken down by project and by financial year, the budgeted cost of these works.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City manages over 360 parks and over 200ha of parks and open space. The City is currently delivering a number of new significant parks at Green Square. These new parks, combined with new parks delivered by developers and sites transferred by other agencies, could potentially increase City-managed open space by 29ha over the next five years.

Existing parks are upgraded and renewed based on asset condition. Projects are delivered to ensure ongoing provision of safe parks in good asset condition, providing high quality presentation, amenity and recreation opportunities to the community.

New Parks		
17/18	18/19	19/20
Matron Ruby Grant Park (inc. Green Square Creative Centre) (\$30.7m) Harold Park (\$14.2m)	Dyuralya Square, Green Square (\$1.6m) The Crescent Lands, Annandale (\$8m) 222 Palmer, East Sydney (\$1.2m)	Gunyama Park, Green Square (inc. Aquatic Centre) (\$102m) Drying Green Park (\$19.7m) City Centre Playground (\$5.3m) Sydney Park Skate Facility (\$6.5m)
Park Renewals		
17/18	18/19	19/20
Victoria Park (\$6.1m) Waterloo Fitness Station (\$500k) Kirsova 2 Playground Erskineville (\$160k) Kimberley Grove Playground, Rosebery (\$200k) Hyde Park North pathway works (\$7.5M)	Hyde Park South Works including Café (\$449k) Sportsfield Development Program (\$6m) Sydney Park CARES Precinct (\$2.5m) James Hilder, Surry Hills* Beaconsfield Playground* Daniel Dawson, Redfern* Strickland Park, Chippendale*	Shannon Reserve, Surry Hills (\$1m) Ernest Pederson Reserve, Glebe* Hollis Park Playground, Newtown* Fig Lane Park playground, Ultimo* Maybanke Park, Pyrmont* Les White, Erskineville* Ross Street Playground and 71 Alfred Road, Forest Lodge*

	<p>Albert Reserve, Erskineville*</p> <p>Redfern Skate*</p> <p>Crete Reserve, Rosebery*</p> <p>Clyne Reserve, Millers Point*</p> <p>Womerah Gardens, Darlinghurst*</p> <p>Wattle and Broadway Rest area</p> <p>Kings Lane Reserve, Darlinghurst *</p> <p>Archibald Fountain and Water Stairs waterproofing*</p> <p>Hyde Park Lighting*</p>	<p>Peace Park, Chippendale*</p> <p>Douglas Street Peoples Park, Redfern*</p> <p>Vine Street Reserve, Darlington*</p> <p>South Sydney Rotary Park, Eveleigh*</p> <p>Cardigan Reserve, Glebe*</p>
	<p>Combined renewal budget of \$10,851,000*– program and project specific budgets to be confirmed</p>	<p>Combined renewal budget of \$10,561,912*– program and project specific budgets to be confirmed</p>

* The program for 18/19 and 19/20 park renewal is indicative only based on asset condition. Detailed delivery programs and budgets will be developed during initiation of each project.