

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S124266 **DATE:** 6 September 2019

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.3 – Sydney Light Rail Project Update and Smoke-Free George Street

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

This Memorandum responds to discussion by Councillors and speakers at the 2 September 2019 Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee.

Additional Information

The benefits outlined in the Committee report were taken from the Transport for NSW CBD and South East Light Rail Business Case dated November 2013. While the costs used in the business case have increased since that time, the figures listed in the Committee report are still the best estimates of the project benefits.

The additional proposed public domain works will involve the removal of kerb and installation of granite paving where the existing asphalt road lane is located (one lane width). The works are not expected to impact on the pedestrian flows on existing footpaths during construction. These works are also not expected to be implemented for 18 months as design, business and community consultation and development approval would need to take place first. As outlined in the report to Committee, budgets will need to be sought from future capital budgets when developing the 2020/21 budget.

It is proposed that the existing waiver of outdoor dining fees along the Light Rail route be extended by 12 months, so that it would now expire on 30 June 2021. This proposal is required to go through the public exhibition process when the fees and charges are set for the 2020/21 financial year.

Transport for NSW is best placed to assess the patronage of the new Light Rail and changes in heavy rail, buses and vehicular movements within the City Centre, the local government area and metropolitan Sydney. Additionally, the City monitors pedestrian and cycle changes over time. Over the recent past, public transport and heavy rail patronage has increased substantially while peak vehicle movement in the City Centre have slowly declined. This trend is expected to continue with the job and population growth, and the coming online of Sydney Metro in 2024 and West Metro some time after. Staff will update Councillors as information become available.

The City was advised of a burst water main at the corner of George and Margaret Streets in August 2019, with Sydney Water and the Light Rail Contractor undertaking emergency repair works. The Light Rail Contractor is responsible for all of the works and has now repaired the damaged utilities. The Light Rail Contractor has advised that re-installation of a temporarily removed smartpole and footpath re-instatement will be completed by the end of September 2019.

Memo from Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

Prepared by: Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MONICA BARONE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER