

Item 11

Questions on Notice

Business Information held on the City of Sydney Website

1. By Councillor Vithoulkas

Question

The City of Sydney website carries the following information:

“Supporting Small Business”

- More than 80% of all businesses in the City of Sydney are defined as small business
- The small business sector employs more than 102,000 people
- There are 18,385 small businesses in the local area
- A 'small business' employs less than 20 people
- Small business within the City is estimated to contribute over a quarter of our economic output more than \$25 billion a year.

“The City in a National Context”

- Based on industry mix and relative occupational wage levels it is estimated that economic activity (GDP) generated in the city in 2015/16 was approximately \$118 billion. This represents over 7% of the total national economy, over 30% of the Greater Sydney economy and over 20% of the entire GDP for NSW.
- There are over 21,500 separate business establishments in our local area. A large number of the top 500 companies in Australia are located in the city from the 41% that are located in NSW alone.

The City of Sydney website quotes the following sources:

- 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing
- 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing
- 2012 City of Sydney Floor Space and Employment Survey
- Regional Population Growth, Australia (ABS Cat no. 3218.0)

1. When was the information for all “separate business establishments in our local area” last correct / up to date?
2. When was the information for the “18,385 small businesses in the local area” last correct / up to date?
3. What is the source of the small business figures as no source is listed?
4. Are there more up to date figures for “separate business establishments” and “small businesses in the local area”?
 - (a) If so can you please supply said figures; dated to when they were last accurate.
 - (b) If so, when will the website be updated?

S129276

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

1. The data on the Business pages of the City’s website relating to the number of small businesses was from the 2012 Floor Space and Employment Survey. The figures were updated on the “[Learn](#)” pages of the City’s website with the 2017 Floor Space and Employment Survey data, released in July 2018.
2. This statistic relates to the 2012 FES. It was correct as of 2012.
3. The source for the small business figure is the City of Sydney Floor Space and Employment Survey. The data on the Business pages was relating to the 2012 Survey. The most recent FES was in 2017 released in July 2018.
4. Yes, from the 2017 Floor Space and Employment Survey.

In 2017 there were 23,511 separate businesses employing workers counted in the local area. 83.8 per cent of these (19,698) were small businesses (having between 1-19 workers). The small business sector employs 115,929 people and is estimated to contribute more than \$30 billion to the economy.

Both of these web pages have now been updated with the 2017 FES statistics.

Election Information held on the City of Sydney Website

2. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

The City of Sydney website carries the following information:

Our Responsibilities – Non Residential Register Rolls

A total of 22,972 non-residential voters were verified by the NSW Electoral Commission to vote at the 2016 City of Sydney election held on 10 September 2016.”

1. The NSWEC has indicated that the City of Sydney assisted by supplying the NSWEC a list of non-voters after the Election. Please advise how many of the 22,972 Non Resident Voters actually participated in the September 2016 Election?
2. Were the verified non-residential voters, who did not participate in the September 2016 Election contacted at any time after the election to advise them that they abnegated their right to vote?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, have their ownership or occupancy details been updated?

S129276

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City does not know how many non-residents participated in the September 2016 election.
2. NSWEC is responsible for managing the failure to vote process and contacting all voters who appear to have failed to vote. The City does not know who failed to vote and so cannot contact them or reflect their failure to vote in the Register.

CEO Update of Non-Residential Register

3. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

In the CEO Update of 23 August 2019 Councillors are advised that Stage 1-5 of the Methodology and Plan 2017-2020 Non-residential Register is complete and Stage 6 is under way. Stage 6 includes an annual confirmation in October / November 2019 to “Contact every eligible registered non-residential owner to confirm and update current details.” and a Register Review in December 2019 as a “Review of register content to determine requirements for additional communications and engagements.”

According to the CEO Update of 24 May 2019 “the next update will be in November 2019”.

1. Have all stages 1-5 been completed? If not, why not?
2. Was there an update in November 2019, if not, why not?

3. Was there an Annual Confirmation as indicated by Stage 6 of the Non-Residential Register Plan? If not, why not? If there was an annual confirmation was this provided to Councillors? If not, why not?
4. Please provide clarification on what “bi-annual updates” means in regards to Councillors being updated on the progress and process of the methodology and plan, when exactly is the bi-annual updates to be provided for 2019 and 2020?

S129276

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

Please see CEO Update circulated on 6 December 2019.

Non Residential Register Progress

4. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

In the CEO Update of 23 August 2019 Councillors were advised that Stages 1-5 of the Methodology and Plan 2017-2020 Non-residential Register is complete and Stage 6 is under way. According to Stage 3 of the plan (which has been underway since September 2017) “Sourcing Rateable Property and Owner Details” indicates that the City would undertake:

- Weekly upload of new property and owner details from the City’s rates database, ASIC and electoral roll to the Register.
- Contacting all new owners to request they submit any additional information required to determine entitlement.

1. How many Non-Residential Registrants have been added to the Register since September 2017?
2. Please provide weekly totals from September 2017 to the present day.

S129276

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

1. The Register has been updated with 36,191 new owner details between 3 September 2017 and 2 December 2019. The new owners of a property may not be new to the Register because individuals and corporations may own multiple properties or sell one property and buy another within the City. The City does not record how many new owners of a property are new to the Register.
2. Weekly totals are shown below:

Utilisation of Hireable Community Space

5. By Councillor Scott

Question

Broken down by year since 2004 and venue, please detail the rate of utilisation of hireable City of Sydney community space within each of each of the City owed community facilities (e.g. Surry Hills Community Centre Hall, Harold Park TramSheds, etc).

S129275

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

This information will take some time to compile. A CEO Update will be provided to Councillors when the information is available.

Affordable Housing via Inclusionary Zoning

6. By Councillor Scott

Question

Please detail progress on actions the City has taken to increase affordable housing via inclusionary zoning.

S129275

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

Three affordable housing inclusionary schemes currently operate in the City of Sydney, including in:

- Ultimo/Pymont, introduced in 1996, which requires 0.8 per cent of residential floor area and 1.1 per cent of commercial floor area be provided as affordable housing;
- Green Square urban renewal area (Green Square), introduced in 1999, which requires three per cent of residential floor area and one per cent of commercial floor area be provided as affordable housing; and
- Southern Employment Lands, introduced in 2015, which requires three per cent of residential floor area and one per cent of commercial floor area be provided as affordable housing.

The Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Sydney LEP 2012) allows the contribution requirement to be satisfied by either providing built floor space for affordable housing, or by making an equivalent monetary contribution. Where monetary contribution is made, funds are passed to City West Housing to build and manage affordable rental housing in the local government area. As at October 2019, inclusionary schemes delivered 685 affordable rental homes that are owned and managed by City West Housing, with an additional 312 in the development pipeline. These dwellings are fully or in-part funded by the City's inclusionary zoning schemes.

In September 2018 Council and the Central Sydney Planning Committee approved a planning proposal to expand the City's inclusionary zoning schemes across the entirety of the local government area. The expanded scheme has the potential to deliver over 1,100 additional affordable rental dwellings for low income households. This is in addition to the 1,650 affordable homes already built or in the development pipeline and the 800 homes projected under exiting schemes.

The planning proposal was referred to the Department of Planning and Environment for legal drafting in September 2018, however as yet has not received approval from the Department for inclusion in the Sydney LEP 2012. The City continues to work with the Department for inclusion of the expanded inclusionary zoning scheme.

Non-Residential Register Methodology

7. By Councillor Vithoulikas

Question

The Methodology and Plan 2017-2020 Non-residential Register on page 3 of 20 in the section '1.2 – Approach' states:

“focus on email as the main communication media.”

Can the Chief Executive Officer please advise the total number of introductory non-residential register emails that have been sent out to unique individual email addresses since September 2017?

S129276

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

Where the Register holds an email address for an individual or corporation, any communication to that individual or corporation will be by email. The City does not record whether emails are introductory. A total of 45,664 emails have been sent since September 2017.

Fire Safety Report Backlog

8. By Councillor Phelps

Question

According to the City of Sydney website:

"The City can issue fire safety orders to building owners, directing them to undertake improvements. The order will list and specify the reasons for issuing the order, what needs to be done and a deadline. The building owner is responsible for ensuring the order is complied with, while tenants may have certain legal obligations under various lease/contract arrangements.

A City officer will inspect the completed work and any certificates that state work complies with the order. The City will then issue a letter confirming the owner has complied with the order. The building is then added to the City's fire certification database and you are required to submit an annual fire safety statement."

As fire safety is an imperative issue, considering the current climate and bushfires around the state, could the Chief Executive Officer please advise on:

1. When a fire hazard is detected in a property, what steps are taken to remediate the defect?
2. What is the City's process to check and ensure the remediation has been completed to an acceptable standard?
3. Of the fire safety reports where a problem or defect has been identified, and an order has been issued, how many are outstanding and over what time period?
4. How many compliance remediation checks are outstanding for the City to perform?

S129272

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

1. Staff may issue a Notice of Intention or warning letter.
2. A reminder is placed in council's database and referred back to the staff member for a follow up inspection and further action if required. Where a building owner completes the work and notifies council, staff will reinspect the premises.
3. The City has received and actioned 753 fire safety related enquiries/complaints in the past 12 months. At present, the City has 304 current Fire Safety Orders – 111 remain outstanding over varying time periods. Outstanding Orders may be subject to legal enforcement, awaiting certification or compliance managed under the City's Compliance Policy.
4. See above.

Macleay Street Upgrades and Parking

9. By Councillor Phelps

Question

In November 2019, the City announced that it was upgrading Macleay Street, Potts Point from Orwell Street to Challis Avenue. These works will include the widening of the footpath, installation of granite paving, continuous footpath treatments at certain intersections, a raised intersection, new street furniture and lighting, and the installation of bicycle racks, smartpoles, trees and garden beds.

The City has publicly promised at the community meeting on 19 November 2019 at the Rex Centre, Potts Point, that there will be no net loss of parking in the area, and that parking spots in the area will be maintained, though allocated elsewhere.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. Exactly how many parking spots currently exist on MacLeay Street between Orwell and Challis Avenue?
2. Exactly how many parking spots there will be on MacLeay Street in the proposed plan?
3. Where will the lost parking spots on MacLeay Street be relocated?

S129272

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

1. Currently, there are 45 parking spaces in Macleay Street, between Orwell Street and Challis Avenue.
2. Under the current proposal, 45 parking spaces will be provided in Macleay Street, between Orwell Street and Challis Avenue.
3. Under the current proposal, there will be no loss of parking spaces in Macleay Street, between Orwell Street and Challis Avenue.

City of Sydney Parking Inspectors

10. By Councillor Phelps

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise on:

1. Whether the City has a specific quota of tickets per shift, either as a policy or in practice?
2. How is the productivity of a City parking ranger measured?
3. What performance indicators are used to ensure parking rangers are checking their assigned areas thoroughly?

S129272

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

1. City of Sydney Rangers are not assigned a specific quota of tickets per shift.

2. Performance measurement for the Rangers incorporate the following elements:

GOAL	PERFORMANCE
Demonstrates knowledge of relevant legislation and its application in the field	Uses correct offence codes, the variety of cautions/ pins issued.
Demonstrates effective planning and time management to ensure efficiency in the field	How to use your time during shifts. Productivity and efficiency within expected range and downtime.
Accurate and detailed information is provided on all work activities. Produces accurate penalty notices and completes documentation to the expected standard	The quality of documentation meaning accuracy, relevance and timeliness of completion. Demonstrated compliance as a result of audits, targeted operations, court matters and penalty notice reviews.
Provision of excellent customer service	Demonstrates a positive image of council. Communicates well with stakeholders and members of the public.

3. See above.

Streetscape Improvements - Associated On-Street Parking Changes

11. By Councillor Forster

Question

As a result of the proposed Streetscape Improvements - Macleay Street Upgrade, Potts Point;

1. What is the net loss or gain of full-time on-street parking spaces?
2. What is the net loss or gain of part-time on-street parking spaces?
3. What is the net loss or gain of loading zones?

As a result of the proposed Streetscape Improvements - Chalmers Street Cycleway, Sydney;

4. What is the net loss or gain of full-time on-street parking spaces?
5. What is the net loss or gain of part-time on-street parking spaces?
6. What is the net loss or gain of loading zones?

As a result of the proposed Streetscape Improvements - Liverpool Street Western Link, Sydney;

7. What is the net loss or gain of full-time on-street parking spaces?
8. What is the net loss or gain of part-time on-street parking spaces?
9. What is the net loss or gain of loading zones?

As a result of the proposed Streetscape Improvements - Saunders and Millers Street, Pyrmont;

10. What is the net loss or gain of full-time on-street parking spaces?
11. What is the net loss or gain of part-time on-street parking spaces?
12. What is the net loss or gain of loading zones?

S129269

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

Macleay Street Upgrade, Potts Point;

1. It is proposed to retain the same number of full-time on-street parking spaces.
2. It is proposed to retain the same number of part-time on-street parking spaces.
3. It is proposed to retain the same number of loading zones.

Chalmers Street Cycleway, Sydney

4. There is no net loss or gain of full-time on-street parking spaces.
5. There is no net loss or gain of part-time on-street parking spaces.
6. There is no net loss or gain of loading zones.

Liverpool Street Western Link, Sydney;

7. There is a net loss of two full-time on-street parking spaces.
8. There is net loss of four part-time on-street parking spaces
9. There is no net loss or gain of loading zones.

Saunders and Millers Street, Pyrmont;

10. There is a net loss of one full-time on-street parking space.
11. There is a net loss of three part-time on-street parking spaces.
12. There is no net loss or gain of loading zones.

Eradication of Vermin

12. By Councillor Forster

Question

The 13 September 2019 CEO Update informed Councillors that letters had been sent to Property NSW, Sydney Water, Sydney Trains and the NSW Land and Housing Corporation, asking for cooperation to deal with the eradication of rats.

1. Can Councillors please be provided with copies of this correspondence?
2. What replies, if any, has the City received and can Councillors please be provided with copies of this correspondence?
3. What recent actions has the City taken to address the issue of vermin in the local government area?
4. What actions will the City take to continue to address the issue of vermin in the local government area into the future?

S129269

Answer from the Chief Executive Officer

1. This correspondence will be provided via the CEO update.
2. This correspondence will be provided via the CEO update.
3. The City has:
 - Continued to increase its permanent bait stations to 865, monitored on a weekly basis and implemented a three month trial of 20 new high-tech solar powered rodent control devices.
 - Enhanced reporting on rat activity across our traditional baiting program that integrates with the City's mapping systems.
 - Implemented a laneway management program targeting rat activity, waste issues and unhealthy premises in identified hotspots. This program has presented improvements in waste management and business and properties receiving warnings and formal action concerning inadequate waste management and rat activity.
 - Commissioned an academic study into the rat population within the City (due for completion 2020).

4. Proposed actions include:

- Development of a waste and rat education leaflet targeting both residential and commercial waste management.
- Increasing the use of high-tech solar powered rodent control devices throughout the City.
- An integrated rat-baiting program throughout public areas, including streets, lanes and parks.
- Identifying and engaging with significant commercial property owners to further develop their existing waste and rat management.