

Item 11

Questions on Notice with Answers

1. Electric Vehicle Initiatives

By Councillor Jarrett

Question

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) recently announced the installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers to existing Ausgrid electrical infrastructure in nine NSW councils by Intellihub Australia. The City of Sydney is not participating in this project.

1. Was the City of Sydney approached by ARENA or Intellihub to apply for the project? If not, was the City aware of the project?
2. Has the City of Sydney applied for ARENA funding and if not, why did the City of Sydney not participate? If the City of Sydney was unable to apply for ARENA funding, why was it unable to, and how were the nine participating Councils selected?
3. How can the City of Sydney become involved in the project? Is the City of Sydney engaging with any businesses on a commercial basis to increase the amount of EV charging infrastructure in the City?
4. What State and Federal electric vehicle grants and initiatives has the City of Sydney applied for? If the City of Sydney has not applied for such grants or initiatives, why has it not, and will the City of Sydney be applying for such grants and initiatives in 2022 or 2023?
5. When will the City of Sydney's Electric Vehicle Policy be available for public display and for consultation?

X086666

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City was not invited to apply for or participate in the ARENA funded initiative.

The City's proposed approach to supporting electrification of the transport system, including public charging, will be addressed in the *Electrification of Transport Strategy and Action Plan* coming to Council shortly.

2. Bridge Road Cycleway

By Councillor Jarrett

Question

In March 2022, Transport for NSW announced that the pop-up Bridge Road cycleway will be upgraded and made permanent.

1. Did the NSW Government discuss with the City of Sydney the possibility of making the Bridge Road cycleway permanent prior to their announcement in March 2022?
2. If the NSW Government did discuss this possibility with the City of Sydney, what did this discussion/s consist of and when did the discussion/s occur?
3. Is it the City of Sydney's preference to make the Bridge Road cycleway permanent?
4. Did the City of Sydney or the NSW Government consider alternatives to upgrading and making permanent the Bridge Road cycleway? If so, what is the justification for the plan announced by Transport for NSW to make the cycleway permanent?
5. When is the pop-up cycleway scheduled to be upgraded and made permanent?
6. What has been the cost of the Bridge Road cycleway to date? What is the cost of making the cycleway permanent, and who is providing the funding?
7. When was the Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030 last reviewed by the City of Sydney? Is a review of the Strategy planned, and if so when this review scheduled to occur?

X086666

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. City staff did not have any prior knowledge of the decision to make the cycleway permanent before it was made public.
2. The City has discussed options and opportunities for a cycleway along Bridge Road since 2015.
3. Yes, it is part of the City of Sydney's bike network plan (adopted by Council in 2018).
4. Yes, alternative routes were investigated and assessed for impacts. The justification is detailed in the Transport for NSW report attached to a CEO Update circulated on 14 April 2022.
5. City staff are not aware of the planned timeframe. This is a Transport for NSW project.
6. City staff have no information about the cost to date or cost of the permanent cycleway. This is a Transport for NSW project and is funded by the NSW Government.
7. The *Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030* was last reviewed in 2018 and will be reviewed before 2030.

3. Woolloomooloo Public Toilet

By Councillor Scott

Question

When will the City's planned public toilet in Woolloomooloo, to support families able to take their children to the park, be completed?

X086668

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

A Development Application has been lodged for the permanent toilets, and is due to go to the Local Planning Panel for a final decision in November. A temporary toilet has been in operation since 13 September and will remain in place until the permanent toilets are built in 2023, subject to approval.

4. Projects Using Commonwealth Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding

By Councillor Scott

Question

Please specify the projects the City has undertaken using the \$865,560 in funding allocated by the Commonwealth Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding by:

- (a) Year
- (b) Cost
- (c) Location.

X086668

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding Phase 1 - Granite paving and streetlighting upgrade.

- (a) Year – completed June 2021
- (b) Funding allocation - \$865,560
- (c) Location - Sussex Street, between Liverpool and Goulburn Street.

5. Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan Update

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Please advise the City's action taken to progress the following targets and the progress that has been achieved:
 - (a) increase the area of naturally occurring vegetation from 2.7 hectares and its condition;
 - (b) 100% increase in bush restoration sites from 4.2 hectares;
 - (c) establishment of representative patches of at least three likely original vegetation communities;
 - (d) increase in indigenous fauna species diversity from 2012 baseline;
 - (e) recording of priority species from a greater number of locations and in higher numbers compared to 2012 baseline;
 - (f) increase the number of habitat features for priority fauna species established along potential habitat linkages;
2. Is there a report of the city's progress on meeting the strategy's targets and goals?
3. Is there an updated strategy underway that builds upon these goals and establishes new targets for the future?
4. Has this strategy or possible future strategies prioritised plants which serve as food, shelter or breeding grounds for the flora of the city?
5. Has it been a priority of this strategy or any future strategies to invite flora back into the city?

X086668

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1.
 - (a) The City currently manages 12.9 ha of bush restoration area. These areas comprise of naturally occurring vegetation and reconstructed vegetation communities.
 - (b) This target has been reached with the City currently managing 12.9 ha of bush restoration areas, in areas like Sydney Park, Glebe, Pyrmont and Rosebery.
 - (c) This target has been reached through the establishment of representative patches of:
 - Eastern Suburbs banksia scrub and Sydney turpentine-ironbark forest at Sydney Park
 - Endangered saltmarsh communities along Johnston Creek Canal

- Grassy open meadow at Prince Alfred Park
 - Mangrove at Bicentennial Park, which is now identified as a coastal wetland area under the Resilience and Hazards SEPP 2021.
- (d) There were 99 fauna species confirmed in the Local Government Area in the 2012 baseline, which includes 70 species of bird. The City has completed a range of targeted surveys or citizen science initiatives since this time to monitor species diversity. As animals are mobile, it can be hard to accurately determine presence or absence of species, but ecological survey data indicates that there are now upwards of 108 species of birds observed in the Local Government Area. The City encourages Citizen Science initiatives, i.e. FrogID, Aussie Backyard Bird Count and Great Southern Bioblitz, which have seen a steady increase in participation and priority species observations.

In line with the Greening Sydney Strategy action a comprehensive urban ecology health check will be undertaken in 2023. This health check will collect information about our existing urban biodiversity status to determine the progress the City has made since the baseline data was collected. This will be combined with other data sources to not only contribute to the surveys but also to consolidate existing data to determine potential habitat measures, reassess priority works and to define future performance targets for the updated Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan.

- (e) See above
- (f) The City has been rolling out a nest box program across select City parks. As part of this program, 42 nest boxes have been installed for various priority species (including microbats, owls, possums, small birds), with a further 63 to be installed next year. Installation of nest boxes in private developments is also encouraged. In addition, two frog habitat ponds have been constructed at Glebe and Rosebery. Further habitat features such as rocks, tree hollows, and logs are also used in parks to provide habitat.
2. Progress and management of Urban Ecology targets and activities can be found in the Green Report and quarterly corporate reporting.
 3. The [Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan \(UESAP\)](#) is currently being reviewed and prepared for update. New targets and goals will be established in line with current City strategies as part of the process. This Plan will be developed over the next year and is scheduled for adoption in 2024.
 4. The current Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan encourages the City to implement plantings with habitat value – particularly food, shelter or nesting location for fauna. This is achieved through plantings at bush restoration sites, and in broader park and streetscape gardens. The [Urban habitat creation guide](#) published in 2019 provides a guide for the community to contribute planting for habitat, and is tailored towards encouraging the local community, particularly resident gardeners to install and maintain native plantings.

5. It is a priority of the current Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan to encourage fauna and flora to re-enter and thrive in the City. Direction 5 of the Greening Sydney Strategy aims to strengthen biodiversity corridors to facilitate the safe movement of species between places. The City's Development Control Plan has also been strengthened to conserve and enhance flora, biodiversity and habitat connections in the City.

6. Reconciliation Economic Development Plan (2016) Update

By Councillor Scott

Question

Broken down by action item in the City's Reconciliation Economic Development Plan (2016), please detail City progress and achievements on each item.

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City has a Reconciliation Action Plan and has also incorporated Closing the Gap Actions into the Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan. These documents outline the City of Sydney's commitments and are reported against regularly via quarterly reports and the CEO Update. An annual report against our Reconciliation Action plan is also prepared.

7. The City's Electrical Vehicle Actions

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Please detail what formal and informal discussions, communications or surveys the City has undertaken with relevant entities in formulating the policies of the Electrical Vehicle Strategy? Specifically the following:
 - (a) Federal and State government agencies;
 - (b) Council contractors;
 - (c) The Electrical Vehicle council;
 - (d) Electrical Vehicle charging companies;
 - (e) Car share operators;
 - (f) Vehicle leasing companies;
 - (g) Retail centre owners;
 - (h) Car parking companies;
 - (i) Taxi companies and associations;;
 - (j) Fuel retailers;

- (k) Resident and community organisations; and
 - (l) Business associations.
2. Please detail assessments that have or will be carried out of council properties and selected low traffic street parking precincts to enable them to be used for public fast charging.
 3. Please detail submissions and advocacy the City has undertaken to State and Federal Governments on spaces for EV chargers within in the City of Sydney.

X086668

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

These matters will be detailed when the *Electrification of Transport in the City Strategy and Action Plan* is presented to Council shortly.

8. QMS Street Furniture

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Please detail:
 - (a) the number of bins installed, and locations where bins were removed and not replaced?
 - (b) the number of bus stops installed, and locations where bus stops were removed and not replaced?
 - (c) the number of seats installed, and locations where seats were removed and not replaced?
 - (d) the number of advertising signs installed, and locations where advertising signs were not present and installed?
2. Please detail the City's projected QMS income, broken down by year, in the City's 10 year forward plan?
3. Please detail the QMS contract penalties that may be imposed on the City, if any, and for what reason.
4. Please detail the City's former and projected payments to QMS, broken down by year, in the past and in the City's 10 year forward plan, for penalties or any other reason?

X086668

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

At the 31 October 2022 Council meeting, the Chief Executive Officer has been requested to conduct a review of this matter. As such the information requested in this Question on Notice will be reconciled and reported as part of the review.

9. Sale, Transfer and Redevelopment of Public Housing in the City

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

Within the City of Sydney Local Government Area, what public housing (that is housing owned by the NSW Government, or the Federal Government, or owned or managed or owner agency or authority connected with the NSW Government, or the Federal Government):

1. Has been sold over the last 12 years? [Please provide details including street addresses, who is the landowner, other known details including number of dwellings]
2. Has been transferred to a social housing, Community Housing Provider or equivalent over the last 12 years? [Please provide details including street addresses, who is the landowner, other known details including number of dwellings]
3. Is currently under development? [Please provide details including street addresses, who is the landowner, other known details including number of dwellings]
4. Is currently proposed for sale? [Please provide details including street addresses, who is the landowner, other known details including number of dwellings]
5. Is currently proposed for transfer to a social housing, Community Housing Provider or equivalent? [Please provide details including street addresses, who is the landowner, other known details including number of dwellings]
6. Is currently the subject of a proposed, future development? [Please provide details including street addresses, who is the landowner, other known details including number of dwellings]
7. Has been the subject of discussions between the NSW Government or a NSW Government representative, about a potential future development, sale or transfer? [Please provide details]

X086664

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

This information is not held or readily available to the City of Sydney. In order to obtain the most accurate information, this is a matter best addressed by the NSW Minister for Housing.

10. Public, Social and Community Housing Targets

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. As a percentage and in absolute numbers, how much public housing existed in the City of Sydney in 2010 (or the closest date that the City has this data), by:
 - (a) Number of dwellings

- (b) Number of rooms (ie the number of dwellings that are one room, two room etc)?
2. As a percentage and in absolute numbers, how much social or community housing existed in the City of Sydney in 2010 (or the closest date that the City has this data), by:
- (a) Number of dwellings
- (b) Number of rooms (ie the number of dwellings that are one room, two room etc)?
3. As a percentage and in absolute numbers, what are the estimates of other kinds of affordable housing which existed in the City in 2010 (or closest available data) by:
- (a) Number of dwellings
- (b) Number of rooms (ie the number of dwellings that are one room, two room etc)?
4. As a percentage and in absolute numbers, how much social or community housing exists in the City now, by:
- (a) Number of dwellings
- (b) Number of rooms (ie the number of dwellings that are one room, two room etc)?
5. As a percentage and in absolute numbers, how much new public housing is currently under development by:
- (a) Number of dwellings
- (b) Number of rooms (ie the number of dwellings that are one room, two room etc)?
6. As a percentage and in absolute numbers, how much new social or community housing is currently under development by:
- (a) Number of dwellings
- (b) Number of rooms (ie the number of dwellings that are one room, two room etc)?
7. What are the City of Sydney's public housing targets – including baseline year and future year/s?
8. What are the City of Sydney's social and community housing targets – including baseline year and future year/s?
9. For the questions above, where can the public access the data referenced?

[If compiled data is the only available data, please provide the compiled data, with relevant notes]

X086664

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City's Housing Monitor and Housing Audit have tracked residential development, including social and affordable housing, in the local government area since 2015 against baseline data for 2007. Data is only available for 'dwellings' and is not available for 'rooms'.

All housing monitor and audits produced since 2015 are publicly available on the City's website at: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/surveys-case-studies-reports/city-monitor-reports#:~:text=City%20monitoring%20tracks%20the%20supply,of%20all%20local%20residential%20housing>.

A summary table of audit data is compiled below:

	2007	2015	2021
Total private dwellings	89,749	101,321	121,725
Absolute public/social housing	9397	9800	9,705
% of total that is public/social	10.5%	9.7%	8.0%
Absolute affordable rental housing*	447	753	1,213
% of total that is affordable rental housing	0.5%	0.7%	1.0%

*Does not include 115 dwellings resulting from the City's Affordable and Diverse Fund

The Housing Monitor and Housing Audit for 2022 are currently being prepared and will be released in November. It will include up to date information about the amount of public / social housing and affordable housing that is built, and how much is currently under development.

As at July 2021 however, there were 918 affordable dwellings that were in the development pipeline or expected (developments of which the City is aware, and expects to be built, but have not yet reached DA stage). Some of these dwellings will have been built, and more may have moved into the development pipeline.

The City's housing targets, including targets for social and affordable housing, are available at the City of Sydney Local Housing Strategy, Housing for All (excerpt below). The housing strategy can be accessed by the public at: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategic-land-use-plans/local-housing-strategy>

Table 1: Housing provision to 2036*

Housing	Total 2016	2016–2021 (0–5 year) target	2022–2026 (6–10 year) target	2027–2036 (11–20 year) contribution	Total 2036
Total private dwellings*	105,860	+18,300	+14,000	+17,700	155,860
private market	95,309	+15,092	+10,792	+11,285	132,480
affordable**	835	+2,714	+2,714	+5,428	11,690
social**	9,716	+494	+494	+987	11,690
Non-private dwellings**	11,569	+2,575	+3,033	+392	17,569
Total dwellings	117,429	+ 20,875	+ 17,033	+ 18,092	173,429

* Data compiled and monitored using the City of Sydney Housing Audit.

* 'Private dwellings' comprise 'market housing', generally represented by homes in private ownership or being rented, 'affordable rental housing' and 'social housing'.

** This reflects the City's target that of all private housing, 7.5 per cent will be affordable housing and 7.5 per cent will be social housing. Despite this, it is acknowledged the City has limited influence over how much housing is provided as affordable or social housing.

** 'Non-private' dwellings are those dwellings that typically comprise shared spaces, such as student housing, boarding houses, group homes, seniors and co-housing housing.

11. Scale of Public Land Proposed for Development in the City

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What current projects on public land are under development on public land, in the City of Sydney Council Local Government Area? [Please provide a list of locations, the land owner, the proponent and the project names]
2. What current projects are proposed for future development on public land (e.g. are the subject of some form of planning or development review, proposal or application), in the City of Sydney Council Local Government Area? [Please provide a list of locations, the land owner, the proponent and the project names]
3. Are there any further areas of public land, not listed in the answers to questions 1 and 2, which the City is aware are being considered for future development? [If yes, please provide details]
4. What is the square footage of public land:
 - (a) For the projects referenced in question 1?
 - (b) For the projects references in question 2?
 - (c) For the projects or areas referenced in question 3?

5. What public land in the City of Sydney Local Government Area is Council aware has been sold, over the last 12 years? [Please provide specific locations and any details the City has in relation to the sale, including which agency or entity sold the land, who it was sold to, and what uses it was sold for]

X086664

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

This information is not held or readily available to the City of Sydney. In order to obtain the most accurate information, this is a matter best addressed by the NSW Minister for Housing, NSW Minister for Planning and NSW Treasurer.

12. State Government Projects

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What projects involving the sale or development of public land on or related to the areas listed below is the City aware of:
- (a) Bays West
 - (b) Barangaroo
 - (c) Blackwattle Bay
 - (d) The Sydney Fish Markets
 - (e) The Pyrmont Precinct
 - (f) Tech Central
 - (g) Central Station rezoning
 - (h) Glebe public housing
 - (i) Waterloo public housing
 - (j) Waterloo metro
 - (k) Redfern Station
 - (l) North Eveleigh
 - (m) South Eveleigh
 - (n) Newtown Station
2. Is the City aware of any additional State Government projects to sell or redevelop public land, not listed above? Is yes, please provide details.

3. What is the size or square footage of the public land which will be sold or development in relation to each of the projects listed in the answers to questions 1 and 2?
4. Who is the land-owner or agency responsible for the land in relation to each of the projects (or areas of land) in the answers to questions 1 and 2?
5. At what stage is each of the developments or sales referred to referred to in the answers to questions 1 and 2?
6. At what stage is each of the developments referred to in the answers to questions 1 and 2?
7. If the land was sold or is to be sold, to whom was the land sold to in each of the projects (or areas of land) referred to in questions 1 and 2?
8. If known, what is the value of the land to be developed or sold in each case?
9. If known, what is the value of the development in each case?

X086664

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

This information is not held or readily available to the City of Sydney. In order to obtain the most accurate information, this is a matter best addressed by the NSW Minister for Housing, NSW Minister for Planning and NSW Treasurer.