

Item 12**Questions on Notice with Answers****Reported Enforcement Income in 2017/18 Quarter 4 Review of \$4.7 million**

1. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

\$4.7 million was the reported enforcement income. Please provide a breakdown of this total including:

1. Which areas of Council this was collected from.
2. The amounts from the various areas of Council it was collected from.
3. Does this include building compliance? If not, then where is this enforcement income reported?
4. Does this include health and compliance? If not, then where is this enforcement income reported?

S129276

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The enforcement income was reported as \$39.4M against a budget of \$34.7M, a favourable variance of \$4.7M.

The areas where the infringements were issued, along with the value of enforcement revenue recognised for Parking, Ordinance and Health and Building compliance will be circulated via a CEO update.

Street Cleansing Along George Street

2. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

There is an incredible amount of construction work taking place along George Street, including state significant infrastructure and private development.

Has there been a reduction in street cleansing because of the construction? If so, how much money has Council saved in the last two financial years?

Has there been a reduction in footpath cleansing along George Street because of construction? If so, how much money has council saved in the last two financial years?

S129276

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Since the commencement of construction along George Street, the City has continually adjusted its cleansing operations to maintain the cleanliness of this area during the construction period.

There have been no financial savings in the last two years.

The Rats of Surry Hills

3. By Councillor Vithoukas

Question

Residents of Surry Hills, including Parkham Street, have complained to Council multiple times regarding the ever-increasing rat problem. Rubbish is routinely being dumped in public areas and the streets do not seem to be receiving regular cleansing.

1. What is Council doing to assist residents in this epidemic?
2. Will Council provide more regular rubbish collection in public areas around Parkham Street?
3. Will cleansing of the streets be escalated?

S129276

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City continues to implement various proactive strategies to monitor, manage and control pest activity across the LGA. An authorised officer recently inspected Parkham Street and surrounding areas for evidence of rat activity. Two additional bait stations have been installed to monitor and control rat activity in this area. These bait stations will be monitored weekly to ensure active measures are in place to manage rat populations.

The City's Cleansing and Waste and Rangers Units work collaboratively in responding to and investigating illegal dumping. Area such as Parkham Street, in which there is continual dumping, are added to a hotspot list and inspected regularly by Rangers and Cleansing and Waste staff which may include conducting surveillance.

The City's Waste Education Team supports these actions by:

- (a) providing educational letters and brochures to households (within a block, street or hotspot area) informing residents about the booked clean-up service and the applicable fine for illegal dumping;
- (b) liaising with building managers and cleaners in multi-unit dwellings to ensure they are informed of and use the booked clean-up service for bulky waste;
- (c) providing booked clean-up service posters and brochures on request for display in apartment blocks; and
- (d) delivering City-wide campaigns, such as 'Want-a-tip' to inform and educate residents of available services.

The City does manual sweeping on a weekly basis.

The City will monitor and review street cleansing in the area and adjust cleaning schedules as needed.

Electronic Voting and Live Minute Taking

4. By Councillor Chung

Question

At the Council meeting of 7 August 2017, it was resolved that the CEO would investigate and provide an update on the feasibility of implementing live minute taking, and electronic voting and recording of votes for Committee and Council Meetings.

1. What steps have been taken to implement live minute taking and electronic voting?
2. When will the City implement the 12 month trial of live minute taking and electronic voting and recording of votes for all Committee and Council Meetings?
3. Why has it taken 12 months for a simple transparency measure to be investigated?

S129268

Answer by the Lord Mayor

On 7 August 2017, Council approved a tender for a meeting paper system and board portal solution replacing the previous paper-based printing, assembling and distribution processes for Council and committee papers. The Secretariat, which supports Committee and Council meetings, has since been implementing the new system across the organisation and has recently completed that implementation.

During this time, staff have reviewed the technology available for electronic voting and confirmed it's compatibility with the new committee reports system. Staff have consulted with other councils who undertake live minute taking to understand their experience of live minute taking, their processes and systems.

Council has not resolved to undertake a trial of live minute taking and electronic voting and recording of votes for all Committee and Council Meetings. The Chief Executive Officer was asked to investigate the feasibility of implementing live minute taking and electronic voting and recording of votes for Committee and Council meetings and report to Council via the CEO Update. She tells me she will shortly be ready to do this.

Easy to Do Business Initiative

5. By Councillor Chung

Question

In the answer to a Question on Notice in December 2017 regarding the progress of the investigation of the Easy to Do Business Initiative, the Lord Mayor stated that City staff and Service NSW have met on several occasions to discuss the digital service offering, 'Easy to Do Business'.

1. Since December 2017, what action has the City of Sydney taken to further investigate the Easy to Do Business Platform?
2. Who has the City met with to discuss the implementation of the Easy to Do Business Platform?
3. When will the City be joining other local government areas in implementing the Easy to Do Business Initiative?

S129268

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Since December 2017, City staff have thoroughly investigated the Easy to Do Business service offering to better understand the proposal and to make informed recommendations.

Since December 2017, City staff have thoroughly investigated the Easy to Do Business service including discussions with staff from other councils who have recently implemented the service to obtain feedback on their experiences. Councils contacted include Parramatta, Willoughby, Liverpool and Georges River.

A workshop with staff from the City and Service NSW was held in March 2018, to understand the service in more detail and discuss what was required for implementation. At this workshop, City staff met with senior directors and managers from Service NSW, including the Chief Customer Officer, Director Strategy and Director Product Management.

On 5 June 2018, the City's CEO contacted the NSW Secretary of Finance to advise that a staged approach for the implementation of Easy to do Business would best suit the needs of the City at this point in time.

Indicative staging would be:

Stage 1 – Provide the City’s customers with links to the Service NSW portal so customers can benefit from the information provided by the Business Concierge; and provide the business Concierge with basic Frequently Asked Question responses relating to City of Sydney processes.

Stage 2 – Integrate Development Application lodgement process with the City’s e-Planning system (to follow after e-planning vendor negotiations and implementation).

Service NSW has confirmed its agreement to the two stage approach. Staff will soon meet with Service NSW to begin stage 1.

Oxford Street Paddington Working Party

6. By Councillor Chung

Question

The Oxford Street, Paddington Working Party was established by Woollahra Council on 22nd April 2013 and includes two representatives from the City of Sydney. The purposes of the working party are to serve as an advisory body to Council to assist with the revitalisation and reinvention of Oxford Street, Paddington and to provide a mechanism for consultation with key stakeholders.

1. How many meetings of the working party have been held since September 2016?
2. Who is the City of Sydney Councillor representative on the working party?
3. How was the Sydney Councillor representative to the working party appointed?
4. How many meetings of the working party has the Sydney Councillor representative attended?
5. For how many meetings of the working party has the Sydney Councillor representative provided an apology?
6. For how many meetings of the working party has the Sydney Councillor representative neither attended nor provided an apology?
7. What reports has the Sydney Councillor representative provided to staff about the discussions of the working party to ensure the City of Sydney is able to fulfil its responsibilities to the businesses of Oxford Street, Paddington?

S129268

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Six.
2. Cr Phillip Thalys (since 20 March 2018)

3. The Terms of Reference for the Working Party (adopted by Woollahra Council on 11 June 2013) specify that the City of Sydney may have up to two representatives nominated by the City of Sydney, either Councillors or Officers. The Lord Mayor nominates the Councillor representative.
4. One, however Cllr Thalys is part of ongoing email correspondence between all members of the working party. There have been two meetings of the Working Party since 20 March 2018
5. One
6. Nil
7. The City of Sydney provides reports and updates to every meeting of the Oxford Street Working Party on key initiatives relevant to the Paddington precinct. At the most recent meeting held on 7 August 2018, the City Business Manager presented the #sydneylocal Strategy and how it is working for Paddington, provided information about the successful Night Time Diversification Grants and shared the Sydney Christmas campaign.

Car Share Statistics

7. By Councillor Forster

Question

The Car Sharing Policy adopted in late 2016 commits at Section 6.1 that “the City will publish monthly usage summaries of car share vehicles by precinct or suburb.”

The CEO Update of 20 July 2018 provided 2017 data, including the average number of bookings and hours used per month for each parking precinct, as well as the number of spaces within each of these precincts. More detailed monthly reports (by individual space) have been made available to council staff by car share operators, but have not been released.

Can the Lord Mayor please release these 'individual space' figures to Councillors?

S129269

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The Car Sharing Policy commits to the release of detailed monthly reports for each of the City's 700+ spaces to the community. Clause 6.1 of the policy also states that these reports are treated as commercial in confidence for 12 months from the date on which the monthly reports are due to Council. Therefore, detailed reports are available for release following the expiry of this 12 month period.

As with the monthly usage summary data, the City is considering the most user-friendly ways of managing the release of these 700+ monthly datasets.

In the interim, the City will provide the Councillors with monthly reports for the period January-June 2017, via a CEO Update, as soon as possible.

Cloud Arch

8. By Councillor Forster

Question

The original budget for the proposed 'Cloud Arch' public art installation was \$3.5 million. Its current budget is 222 per cent more than this and stands at \$11.3 million.

Is it possible that the final cost of this project will exceed \$11.3 million?

S129269

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The arch is currently out for tender and will be reported back to Council before the end of the year. This report will confirm final costs.

24 Hour Homelessness Safe Space

9. By Councillor Scott

Question

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. As to the progress of the establishment of the 24 hour homelessness safe space in the vicinity of Martin Place, which was promised by the Lord Mayor in August 2017?
2. The estimated date at which the space will be established?

S129275

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Family and Community Services have provided additional funding to the Wayside Chapel to extend their hours of operation to later evenings and across seven days per week. This arrangement has now been extended for an additional two years. A 24/7 safe space has not been included in the NSW Government's homelessness strategy, released earlier this year. City staff have not been advised by NSW Family and Community Services whether the safe space will go ahead.

Pavement and Lighting Issue in Potts Point

10. By Councillor Scott

Question

Residents have reported dangerous cracked pavement and lack of light near St John's Church on Darlinghurst Road, Potts Point. I was initially advised that this pavement would be fixed by 30 June 2018, and that Ausgrid lighting upgrades would be requested to be expedited. I believe neither issue has been resolved as of 6 August 2018. Could Councillors please be advised:

1. When pavement and lighting issues at this location will be fixed?
2. What has caused delays in this urgent repair, which poses a danger to the community?

S129275

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. The cracked pavement near St John's Church, Darlinghurst has been made safe on 27 July 2018.

City staff have investigated the lighting levels at 120 Darlinghurst Road and confirm they are in accordance with the lighting standards for this area. The approved lighting codes can be found here - [City of Sydney Lighting Code](#).

Ausgrid have advised that the lighting upgrades have been programmed and will be completed by the end of November 2018.

The lighting near St Johns church is owned and operated by Ausgrid. City staff have contacted Ausgrid several times and asked for the works to be scheduled sooner.

2. Staff were at the site and made it safe before 30 June 2018. However, Sydney Water were working in the near vicinity and City staff finalised the treatment work in July 2018 only after it was confirmed that Sydney Water did not intent to further disturb the area

Ways Terrace Pymont

11. By Councillor Scott

Question

I was advised by staff in May 2018 that Ways Terrace Pymont “is not a road, and accordingly no organisation is responsible for regulating parking restrictions on Ways Terrace.” Issues have been reported to me regarding parking in the area. Could Councillors please be advised:

1. If Ways Terrace Pymont is not considered a road, what is this space?
2. Which body or bodies are responsible for the regulation of this space?
3. How the City can assist in resolving constituent concerns on this space?

S129275

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Ways Terrace is classified as Community Land.
2. The City of Sydney.
3. Assuming constituent concerns about Ways Terrace relate to enforcement of parking restrictions, the City is working to have Ways Terrace converted to a road. This is because parking restrictions cannot be enforced on community land. Currently, the accessway to Ways Terrace from Point Street, known as the Passage, is owned by the State government and is vested in Family and Community Services (FACS). Staff are working with FACS to have The Passage dedicated as a road and transferred to the City. If The Passage is dedicated as a road, the City will then be able to dedicate Ways Terrace as a road. This will allow staff to enforce parking restrictions in Ways Terrace. However, if The Passage is not dedicated as a road, staff will need to remove the parking spaces and signposts from Ways Terrace

Rubbish Collection in Newtown

12. By Councillor Scott

Question

Residents in Newtown have been experiencing issues with rubbish collection from their bin room, and subsequent rubbish dumping issues, for some time. This issue was first raised with staff by my office in August 2017. Could Councillors please be advised:

1. What steps have been taken by City staff to assist the residents with rubbish collection issues at this location in Newtown?
2. What steps staff plan to take in the future to facilitate bins being collected from the bin room at this location?

S129275

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. City staff meet with property representatives to help resolve bin room matters, including;
 - (a) Providing education materials and signage
 - (b) Reviewing and changing bin arrangements and capacity
 - (c) Reviewing alternative collection arrangements such as presentation at the kerbside or by a wheel-out and wheel-back service
 - (d) Promoting of the City's on-line booking services
2. City staff will continue to discuss with representatives possible options for improving waste management. The City also encourages property representatives to contact City Staff via the City's Customer Service team to further assist with any bin room matters.

City of Sydney Council Vehicle Fleet

13. By Councillor Phelps

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide:

1. A breakdown of the number of vehicles the Council owns according to their fuel source, including petrol, diesel, hybrid and electric?
2. The average estimated lifespan of vehicles in each category?

S129272

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1.

Fuel Type	323 Total Fleet
Petrol (Passenger)	10
Diesel (Passenger)	8
Electric (Passenger)	19
Petrol Hybrid (Passenger)	41
	78
Diesel (Light Commercial)	87
Diesel Trucks	89
Hybrid Trucks	69
	245

2. The City determines the lifespan of vehicles based on a number of factors including kilometres, age and condition. Generally, passenger vehicles are replaced every two years or 40,000 km; light commercial every three years or 60,000 km and heavy vehicles vary according to their usage, function and residual value. Example estimated replacement periods are:

Description	Replacement Period (Years)	Replacement Mileage
Garbage Compactor	5	
Water Tanker	5	
Sweeper/Eductor	5	
5-7 tonne truck	7	
Bus	7	
2-3 tonne truck	5	
Passenger vehicle	2	40,000
Passenger vehicle - Hybrid	5	100,000
Light Commercial	3	60,000
Crane truck	7	