

## Item 11

### Questions on Notice with Answers

#### Smoke-Free Zone Expansion to Sydney Square, Implementation Timeline

1. By Councillor Phelps

##### Question

At the Council meeting on 13 August 2018, Council unanimously passed my motion to undertake a smoke-free zone trial in Sydney Square, adjacent to Town Hall.

Could the CEO please provide an update on the implementation of a smoke-free zone trial in Sydney Square, including the expected trial dates and promotional material?

S129272

##### Answer by the Lord Mayor

Less than 50 per cent of the area of Sydney Square is public land. The balance is private land owned and managed by the St Andrews House Corporation and the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney.

City staff are liaising with representatives of the Corporation and Trust to define the geographic scope of the trial smoke-free area and how the site will be managed if they agree to participate in the trial.

Key issues to be resolved include:

- location of signage;
- who will handle customer enquiries; and
- enforcement/education.

A CEO Update will be provided to Councillors once these issues are resolved and the extent of the smoke free area is finalised and can commence operation. Information will also be provided on the promotion of the Smoke Free Trial in Sydney Square.

## Commemorative Plaques in the City

2. By Councillor Scott

### Question

From time to time, the City has placed commemorative plaques in public spaces to memorialise the contribution of prominent individuals or important community members to our City.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. What is the process undertaken to determine how, where, and to whom these commemorative plaques are allocated?
2. How many commemorative plaques have been installed in the City from 2012 to present, by year, and to whom were these plaques dedicated?
3. Is there a mechanism by which members of the public can request the installation of such a plaque? If so, please detail this process.

S129275

### Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City generally does not support commemorative plaques for individuals. Applicants are referred to the Tree Donation Program <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/live/trees/tree-donations>

The process and criteria for commemorative plaques are set out in the Interim Plaque Guidelines, endorsed by Council in 2007 <http://cdn.cityartsydney.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/09165702/INTERIM-GUIDELINES-PLAQUES-SEP2006R1.pdf>

One commemorative plaque for an individual has been installed since 2012. On 26 August 2013 (Lord Mayoral Minute 3.1) Council marked the passing of Dr Ray Seidler and endorsed the installation of a commemorative plaque. This was unveiled by Councillor Kemmis on behalf of the Lord Mayor at a commemorative event in May 2014.

A new program for historical plaques has been developed by staff in consultation with the Royal Australian Historical Society and will be ready for implementation by the end of the year. The program will celebrate significant events and sites in the local government area and invite nominations from the community.

## Boarding Houses

3. By Councillor Scott

### Question

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. How many developments benefiting from boarding house bonuses in the State Environmental Planning Policy 2009 have been approved in the City of Sydney between 2012 and the present, broken down by year?
2. Does the City record statistics regarding the average rents ultimately charged on properties approved by the City as boarding houses? If so, please provide these from 2012 to present, broken down by year.

S129275

### Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Up to date numbers are not currently available, however a recent report published by the City Futures Research Centre, University of New South Wales shows between 2009 and 2017 over 5700 rooms in 86 boarding houses were approved in the City of Sydney. It is reasonable to assume most of these applications would have made use of some or all of the floor space bonus available under the SEPP.

In the South Sydney Region (including Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Georges River, Inner West, Randwick, Sutherland, Sydney, Waverly, Woollahra councils) over half the new boarding rooms are located in the City's local government area.

2. The City does not record statistics regarding the average rents ultimately charged on properties approved by the City as boarding houses.

## Closed Pedestrian Tunnel at Bourke Street, Green Square

4. By Councillor Scott

### Question

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. To the City's knowledge, will the stated re-opening time of April 2019 for the closed pedestrian tunnel at Bourke Street, Green Square be adhered to, acknowledging that Transport for NSW and the relevant developer must reach agreement regarding the opening of the tunnel?
2. In December 2018, a tragic truck accident on Bourke Street killed one pedestrian and injured several others. Please outline what safety measures, if any, the City has implemented to protect pedestrians and cyclists in this area while the pedestrian tunnel remains closed in the wake of this incident.

S129275

### Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. The reopening date of the pedestrian tunnel is a matter between the applicant and Sydney Trains, not the City.
2. In regards to the truck incident, which occurred on Botany Road on Tuesday 11 December 2018, near Geddes Avenue, a truck driver suffered a medical episode and lost control of his truck. The truck collided with a Bus Stop where people were waiting resulting in a death of one person and injury to a number of other people.

Police and RMS advice was that speeding was not a factor in this incident and that no remedial treatment was possible to prevent such an incident.

The City is progressively rolling out 40km/h speed limits on all of our local roads, with 30km/h limits in high risk locations. On 18 December 2018, I wrote to the Secretary, Transport for NSW, to strongly urge the NSW Government to extend the 40km/h posted speed limit on state-controlled routes such as Botany Road and Bourke, Lachlan, McEvoy and Elizabeth Streets. This could be done as a time of day speed reduction during periods of peak pedestrian activity. The Secretary has indicated Transport for NSW will work to reduce arterial road speed limits to 50km/h, including on Botany Road. While this is a step in the right direction, I will continue to advocate for 40km/h posted speed limits to improve safety for pedestrians.

In addition, the City has worked with the developer of 301 Botany Road, and the NSW Government (Sydney Buses and RMS), to ensure signage and temporary barricades are provided to direct pedestrians along safer alternative routes during the temporary closure of the tunnel under Botany Road. There are a number of signalised pedestrian crossings surrounding Greens Square Station which provide safe access for pedestrians and cyclists across Botany Road.

Botany Road and the traffic signals at Green Square are under the control of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). City staff have contacted RMS and requested that any additional safety improvements for pedestrians, crossing Botany Road during the temporary closure of the tunnel, would be welcomed.

## Leasing and Ownership Agreements for Tom Uren Place

5. By Councillor Scott

### Question

On 28 February 2019, I was advised by City staff that, for the area known as Tom Uren Place (90 - 94 Bourke Street, Woolloomooloo), the following agreements exist:

- (a) a lease from State Rail Authority to NSW Land and Housing Corporation that expires on 29 November 2041; and
- (b) a sublease from NSW Land and Housing Corporation to The Council of the City of South Sydney that expires 28 November 2041.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. As the former Council of the City of South Sydney no longer exists, what is the legal status of this sublease?
2. As the former Council of the City of South Sydney was amalgamated into the City of Sydney in 2004, has the lease on 90 - 94 Bourke Street been transferred to, or become under the control of, the City of Sydney?

S129275

### Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. By operation of the amalgamation proclamation dated 6 February 2004, the interest of the City of South Sydney Council in the sublease was transferred to the Council of the City of Sydney without the need of any transfer or assignment. All rights and liabilities of the City of South Sydney Council under the sublease became the rights and liabilities of the Council of the City of Sydney on and from 6 February 2004.
2. Yes, on the terms of the amalgamation proclamation dated 6 February 2004.

## Traffic Enforcement Issues in the City

6. By Councillor Scott

### Question

I have received a high volume of correspondence regarding issues with enforcement of traffic infringements, including speeding and disobey road signs, across our City in recent months.

1. How does the City approach complex traffic enforcement issues, which require the co-operation of multiple stakeholders, including NSW Police, RMS and local residents?
2. Does the City have a specific strategy for engaging these stakeholders in traffic matters? If so, could this information please be provided to Councillors.

S129275

### Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City has a local government road safety program in partnership with Roads and Maritime Services and the NSW Centre for Road Safety. The City has been a road safety partner since 1993. The program aims to reduce road toll through education, enforcement and engineering.

The City engages with our six Police Area Commands on a regular basis to discuss issues and target areas for Police and Ranger activity. We also work closely with Property NSW, CBD Coordination Office and the Transport Management Centre.

The City also engages with NSW Police and the community via the Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPCs). CSPCs are aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime throughout NSW. The Committees are designed to identify local crime and safety issues.

NSW Police are responsible for responding to breaches of the road rules, including speeding vehicles, and they arrange additional patrols based on reports received. The City encourages residents to report any incidents they have witnessed to the police directly to give them specific details