

Item 10

Questions on Notice with Answers

1. Palm Trees

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. Why did Council staff decide to plant palm trees at the Loftus Street pedestrianisation project?
2. What are the benefits of planting palms across the City given how little shade they provide?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The Loftus Street upgrade project involved planting of both Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona australis*), interplanted with canopy trees – both Water Gum (*Tristaniaopsis laurina* 'Luscious') and Southern Hackberry (*Celtis australis*).

Palms are specified as the required species for Loftus Street in the City's Street Tree Masterplan, with Southern Hackberry (*Celtis australis*) included as a secondary species. The Street Tree Masterplan nominated the native palms for the north-south running streets connecting to Circular Quay in order to balance the provision of greenery with the retention of important views to the harbour, historic buildings and squares. With the pedestrianisation project there was a need to balance views and heritage with the provision of shade, so the design team worked with the City's arborists to expand the palette to include additional canopy trees. Southern Hackberry provides a large deciduous canopy, and Water Gums were also included to provide evergreen canopy shelter and shade.

The upgrade project was completed in late 2025 and the canopy trees are therefore still small. They will grow to a substantial size and spread (Southern Hackberry to 20m height and Water Gum to 8m height) – and together with the palms will provide significant shade and shelter at maturity.

2. Cabbage Tree Palms are native and endemic to Sydney, particularly around the harbour and coast. They are present in remnant bushland around Sydney Harbour and have been used successfully around the Circular Quay precinct - thriving in a harsh and constrained planting environment due to their compact root system and shade tolerance. The architectural form of the palms (tall slender trunk and compact foliage) enables their use in the curtilage of significant heritage buildings and precincts, where retaining views is of high value. Whilst the canopy is small, strategic placement of palms and street furniture can provide shade at key times. It is recommended to interplant palms with other, wider canopy tree species in pedestrian areas where greater shade or shelter is required.

2. City Staff Working at Night

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. How many City staff work between the hours of 6pm and 6am?
2. Can you provide a list of roles that the City's night workers do?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The table below represents the number of employees who regularly work the majority of a shift between 6:00pm and 6:00am. With the exception of the City Cleansing night shift team, the number of night shift employees vary from day to day depending on workload and roster requirements.

Position Title	Number of night shift employees
Cleansing Coordinator	1
Team Leader City Cleansing (Night Shift)	3
Cleansing Crew Operator (Night Shift))	23
Cleansing Crew Member (Night (Shift)	5
City Ranger - Ordinance	4
City Ranger - Parking	4
Electrician - Licenced	3
Security Operations Coordinators	4
Security Operators	11
Total	58

There are also employees who work between 6:00pm and 6:00am when operationally required. Examples include venue management and events employees, employees required to attend Council meetings, and City Cleansing employees who work an afternoon shift that concludes at 9:00pm.