

Item 13

Questions on Notice with Answers

Oxford Street Tree Lighting

1. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 13 August 2018, Council unanimously endorsed my motion for the Chief Executive Officer to investigate the possibility of illuminating the London Plane trees lining both sides of Oxford Street between Hyde Park and Taylor Square, considering both short-duration lighting attached to tree trunks and branches, and/or longer term initiatives such as illumination from an outside source using lights attached to awnings or on the pavement.

Can the Lord Mayor please provide an update on the progress of these investigations?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The investigation into options for illumination of the London Plane trees lining both sides of Oxford Street, between Hyde Park and Taylor Square, is underway.

Staff are reviewing the options for in-ground lighting, catenary mounted lights, fairy lights on the branches and Smartpole mounted up lights.

In January 2019, City staff will provide a CEO Update with the outcome of these investigations.

S129269

Shared Zones in Chippendale

2. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 13 August 2018, Council unanimously endorsed my motion for the Chief Executive Officer to conduct an audit of all streets in the suburb of Chippendale to identify those that have the future potential to be converted into Shared Zones.

Can the Lord Mayor please provide an update on the progress of this audit?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is responsible for approving Shared Zones, and require that Shared Zones be installed only in areas that are consistent with their specific requirements.

Chippendale contains approximately 50 narrow streets and laneways.

In 2008, Council approved the Chippendale Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming (PCTC) plan following extensive community consultation. The City has completed most of the treatments recommended in the Chippendale PCTC plan. This included the installation of five Shared Zones in Chippendale – Kensington, Outram, Gould, Dwyer and Dick Streets. The PCTC plan also recommended the introduction of Shared Zones in Little Queen Street and Teggs Lane, which are approved and currently scheduled for construction.

Creating a Shared Zone is a costly option because of the required changes to the road environment, such as paving the road surface, additional drainage, additional lighting and footpath reconstruction, as per the RMS technical directions. Streets that do not have a history of crashes, are used by low volumes of pedestrians and have low traffic speeds and volumes, do not justify the implementation of a Shared Zone. Additionally, in very narrow laneways, the implementation of Shared Zones requires the removal of kerb side parking.

An audit of the 50 streets in Chippendale, to determine the suitability of each street for a Shared Zone, would involve a review of parking and road widths, drainage and lighting conditions, commissioning traffic and pedestrian counts, reviewing crash history, and a final assessment to determine if the street complies with RMS requirements.

The City is reviewing the resourcing and budget implications compared with the other traffic safety priorities across the City. A CEO Update will be prepared at the end of the review in March 2019.

S129269

Traffic Calming in Davoren Lane, Surry Hills

3. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 17 September 2018, Council unanimously endorsed my motion for the Chief Executive Officer to immediately investigate and implement options for traffic calming and/or signage in Davoren Lane on the approach to the T-intersection with Foveaux Street, in order to improve pedestrian safety.

Can the Lord Mayor please provide an update on the progress of this investigation?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Where vehicle traffic volumes are relatively low, and potential conflicts are also relatively low, the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) allow Councils to consider installing pedestrian prioritisation treatments called Continuous Footpath Treatments (CFT). A CFT is a continuation of the footpath parallel with the main street, at grade, without colour or texture change, across side street intersections. Approval for such treatments are subject to certain RMS requirements.

In late October (after school holidays), City staff commissioned traffic counts in Davoren Lane and the results show that the location meets the RMS requirements for a CFT.

Therefore a continuous footpath treatment is proposed at the entry to Davoren Lane, just south of Foveaux Street.

Given the approaching Christmas period, City staff will be consulting with the local community in January 2019, with the proposal to be referred to the next meeting of the Local Pedestrian and Traffic Calming Committee in February 2019.

In the meantime, City staff have installed a “Watch for Pedestrians” sign in Davoren Lane on the approach to Foveaux Street to remind drivers to be aware of pedestrians.

S129269

Central Sydney Laneways

4. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 29 October 2018, Council unanimously endorsed my motion for the Chief Executive Officer to update Councillors on the progress of the implementation of the City’s Live Laneways – Laneway Revitalisation Strategy, and on the current laneway improvements being progressed.

Can the Lord Mayor please provide up-to-date information on when this motion will be actioned?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Between 2010 and 2018, laneway improvement works were completed in:

- Ash Street;
- Angel Place;
- Albion Place;
- Market Row;
- Gas Lane;
- Temperance Lane;
- Douglass and Eagar Lane;
- Nithsdale Lane;
- Kimber Lane;
- Sussex Lane;
- Thomas Lane;
- Factory Lane;
- Little Hay Street;
- Bulletin Place;

- Wilmot Street;
- Central Street;
- Reiby Place;
- Bulletin Place;
- Hosking Place and Penfold Place;
- Tank Stream Way;
- Abercrombie Lane; and
- Bridge Lane.

Improvements to Lees Court are on hold as a result of upgrade works to the adjacent MLC building. It is anticipated that this upgrade will be completed as part of developer public domain contributions.

A concept design was completed for York Lane, but construction works were put on hold due to adjacent work associated with the construction of Wynyard Walk. These works have now been completed, and recent discussions with Transport for NSW indicate support for the conversion of York Lane to a shared zone and associated public domain improvements.

City staff are progressing laneway improvements to be delivered by third party developer public domain contributions. These include Dalley Street, Underwood Street, Customs House Lane and Loftus Lane.

The laneways strategy approach is used to guide laneway public domain outcomes associated with adjoining private development. The City's policies support the organic revitalisation of laneways and many developments underway are making significant improvements to the laneway revitalisation that the City's current policies strive for, such as Toga Hotel at Curtain Place and the Crown Group at Skittle Lane.

S129269

Sydney Light Rail Artwork - Moongate

5. By Councillor Vithoukias

Question

In the media and at the parliamentary inquiry last week, Acciona spoke about the required removal of the Moongate art installation in order to complete required works for the Light Rail.

Can the Lord Mayor please provide detailed answers to the following questions regarding the Moongate installation and removal:

1. How much money was spent by Council on the acquisition and installation of the Moongate artwork?

2. What was the installation date for the Moongate artwork?
3. Given that the Lord Mayor was aware of the Light Rail construction taking place, was the Moongate art installation put in after Light Rail construction had commenced? If the installation occurred after the construction had started, why was it installed when it could potentially be damaged by the Light Rail construction?
4. Can the Lord Mayor outline the damage to the Moongate artwork, given that Acciona testified to the parliamentary inquiry they were unaware of any damage to the installation during removal and storage?
5. Are there any plans to reinstall the Moongate art installation? If so, what potential cost is there to the Council for the works to be reinstalled?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The flung bronze artwork, Moongate by Lindy Lee, is one component of the Garden of Cloud and Stone, installed on 23 October 2015. Moongate is a component of a larger artwork, therefore it is difficult to isolate the exact cost of this element. We estimate the cost of the component to be approximately \$400,000.

The contract for Moongate was awarded on 8 December 2014, prior to the commencement of the Light Rail construction in 2015. Works were not anticipated in this part of Thomas Street, as the work by Acciona on the site of Moongate is outside of the works site (under the Light Rail contract).

It is our understanding bronze pieces went missing and the artwork damaged. Inset pavers were also broken and chipped. The City has provided photographic evidence to Transport for NSW.

Moongate will be reinstalled at the contractor's cost.

S129276

Short Term Rentals (AirBnB)

6. By Councillor Vithoukias

Question

Recently, the NSW Government has put forth a range of amendments which impact the short-term rental market.

1. Has the City of Sydney Council requested an exemption from the SEPP to make short-term rentals exempt and complying developments, as has been done in the Byron Shire Council?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If the Council did, why did the Council do so?
2. Is Council in favour of a short-term rentals register to monitor and regulate short-term rental hosts, in the same way the Byron Shire Council has done so? If not, why not?

3. Does Council oppose the 180-day cap on short-term rentals as does the Byron Shire Council?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If the Council does, why does Council do so?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City's position on short term rentals was outlined in the City's submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment on a proposed Short-term Rental Accommodation Planning Framework. A draft of the City's submission was circulated to Councillors on 27 November 2018.

S129276

Campbell Road Alexandria

7. By Councillor Scott

Question

Residents of Campbell Road, Alexandria, are experiencing significant disruption due to Westconnex construction, which is compounding pre-existing local concerns given their proximity to Sydney Park.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. What steps can be taken by the Council to increase the safety of residents on Campbell Road, Alexandria, including the investigation of increased lighting in the relevant section of Sydney Park?
2. What repairs can the City undertake to the gate at the entrance to Campbell Road, Alexandria?
3. Are there other options the Council can provide to the residents as mitigation against the loss of parking due to Westconnex construction?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. The City has investigated options to improve lighting on Campbell Road in the vicinity of Harber Street and Barwon Park Road. The lighting at this location is owned and operated by Ausgrid. The City requested Ausgrid as a priority to enhance street and pedestrian lighting along Harber Street to improve safety and amenity, and is expecting completion of works by January 2019.

The footpath of Campbell Road is currently controlled by the RMS as part of the WestConnex St Peters Interchange. The City is not able to implement any safety improvements on Campbell Road.

2. The City does not control any gate at the entrance to Campbell Road, Alexandria. Ownership is currently being investigated and staff will report back the findings via CEO Update.

3. Campbell Road has permanently become part of the WestConnex St Peters Interchange and, as such, RMS control kerb side parking along Campbell Road.

Most of the properties along Campbell Road have rear access to off-street parking via the private laneway behind their homes. This private laneway (controlled by the City) also provides some additional parking spaces.

Parking options considered previously are:

- Residents have previously asked the City to consider building a car park at the rear of their properties within Sydney Park. Unfortunately, this section of Sydney Park is not suitable. Under the Sydney Park Plan of Management, it is categorised as land that helps to encourage plant growth, and is next to a 'no mow' zone that allows the grass to grow long enough to provide a vital green habitat for native fauna and improve biodiversity in the area. A car park would be incompatible with this purpose. A parking area would also require extensive excavation, levelling and paving to be safe for vehicles and pedestrians.
- Residents have also previously asked the City to consider allowing residents to be allowed parking permits and to park within nearby Harber Street. However, Harber Street has limited capacity, with spaces primarily designed to accommodate park visitors, and is likely to experience increased demand. The City has no plans to change the parking restrictions in this street, with the parking spaces to remain as '4P 8.30am- 5.30pm, Mon-Fri', with two designated disability parking spaces. This provides parking turnover for visitors to the area. In any case, given that the properties along Campbell Road have off-street parking, they would not be eligible for resident parking permits.

S129275

Temporary Northern Railway Access

8. By Councillor Scott

Question

On 25 September 2018, I was advised by City staff that a fence surrounding the Temporary Northern Railway access corridor in Erskineville, parallel to Burren Street, encroaches onto Burren Street, which is Council public land. I was further advised that the City's Property Unit would work towards closing the temporary railway access on the basis that it was opened with community consultation on a temporary basis, and the works for which it was opened are now complete.

On 5 November 2018, City staff advised me that Transport for NSW does not wish to close the access route. The route, incorporating City and Transport for NSW land, is a major pedestrian thoroughfare between Erskineville Station and Macdonaldtown Station, and forms part of the City's cycle network.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. What actions the City will take to ensure public access to City public land on Burren Street and Erskineville Road in Erskineville?
2. What actions the City has undertaken to ensure the temporary use of Transport for NSW land is resolved so that the public use is maximised?
3. What actions, including advocacy, the City will undertake to ensure the highest possible amount of public land is maintained for public use in this key pedestrian and cycle route?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

There appears to be a small parcel of public land, approximately 10m², fenced within the Sydney Trains rail corridor. The current fencing does not inhibit pedestrian thoroughfare between Erskineville Station and Macdonaldtown Station.

The City has contacted Sydney Trains, raising the community's concerns, and Sydney Trains has agreed to consider the City's requests with the aim of ensuring that this small parcel of public land is made available for public use.

S129275

Commemoration of the Redfern Address

9. By Councillor Scott

Question

At the December 2017 Council meeting, the motion, Commemoration of the Redfern Address (S129266), was carried unanimously. The motion includes the following action point:

That the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Panel and, where necessary, historians, members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and local residents, will determine the appropriate way to acknowledge the work of Sol Bellear and the 25th anniversary of the Redfern Address with a commemorative plaque in Redfern Park.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. What work has been completed to date to acknowledge the work of Sol Bellear and the 25th anniversary of the Redfern Address with a commemorative plaque in Redfern Park?
2. What is the timeline for the installation of the plaque?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Staff have met with Sol Bellear's family and are continuing to work with them to their timeline.

S129275

New Year's Eve Alcohol Free Zones

10. By Councillor Scott

Question

At the November 2018 Council meeting, Councillors were advised that the answer to the following question would be provided via the CEO Update:

Broken down by year, please detail the total number of alcohol free zones in the City of Sydney on 31 December, between 2004 and 2018.

Could Councillors please be advised of the answer to this question as soon as possible?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

A CEO Update will be provided prior to Christmas.

S129275

Fitzroy Gardens Toilets and Kings Cross Upgrades

11. By Councillor Scott

Question

Local community members have expressed frustration at delays in the implementation of the improvement works Kings Cross - in particular, the Fitzroy Gardens Toilet upgrade and Kings Cross Community Gardens.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. Of the expected timeframe for completion of the upgrade to the Fitzroy Gardens Toilets?
2. Of the expected timeframe for completion of the upgrade to the Kings Cross Community Gardens?
3. Updates as to the progress of both these projects?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The Fitzroy Gardens Toilet upgrade is still on track for completion by the end of 2018. The toilet units have been installed, floor tiles completed, all internal fixtures installed and external façade complete, with electrical and plumbing services connected.

Works to Kings Cross Community Gardens are planned to commence in late March 2019 with a completion date of June 2019.

S129275

Increased Funding for Environmental Strategies

12. By Councillor Scott

Question

On 4 May 2017, the Lord Mayor announced that the additional funding arising from the cancellation of the City of Sydney Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party would be reinvested in a fast tracked environmental strategy for the City of Sydney.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. How much additional funding from the cancelled City of Sydney Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party in the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 budgets was reallocated to a fast tracked environmental strategy? Please detail the activities or infrastructure to which this funding was allocated.
2. Broken down by financial year until 2020 - 2021, please detail the quantum of funding reallocated, and what activities or infrastructure that will be funded, from the cancelled City of Sydney Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party.

Answer by the Lord Mayor

In 2016, I put a Lord Mayor Minute to Council noting the Deadline 2020 report by C40 which highlighted the desperate urgency of action on climate change. In response, Council requested the CEO accelerate the implementation of the 2016-2021 Environment Action Strategy.

The cancellation of the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve event at Sydney Opera House was one of the cost-savings measures identified during a detailed internal review during the development of the 2017-2018 budget to ensure the City could accelerate work on the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan.

Cancelling the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve event has saved \$463,500 from the budget. Saving those funds was one of the budget savings that allowed the City to increase funding for climate related initiatives by \$2.4M.

Please refer to the report to Council on 8 May 2017, Integrated Planning and Reporting Program and Budget 2017/18 - Public Exhibition, for information about all the projects in the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan, and how they will accelerate out action on climate change.

The initiatives in 2017/18 and following years include:

- (a) efficiency initiatives, improved utilities management and better waste management practices;
- (b) amendments to planning controls to improve the environmental performance of new buildings, including the development of a planning pathway towards net-zero buildings;
- (c) utilisation of open data platform to report on local government area environmental programs;
- (d) use of this data to target sustainability programs;

- (e) enhancement of office tenancy sustainability programs;
- (f) energy tune-up programs for businesses and residential apartments; and
- (g) sustainability programs to encourage uptake of renewable energy.

The City reports progress against the Environmental Action Strategy through the six-monthly Green Report. The latest green report for June 2018 can be found here:

https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/304762/Green-Report-January-to-June-2018.pdf

Provision has been made in forward budgets to implement the Environmental Action Strategy, and budgets are put to Council for approval every year.

S129275

Key Infrastructure Upgrades

13. By Councillor Scott

Question

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. The completion dates, or current timeline for the completion, of the following new or upgraded City facilities:
 - (a) the childcare centre at 3 Joynton Avenue, Zetland
 - (b) the childcare centre at Sydney Park Road, Alexandria project
 - (c) the Dyuralya Square project
 - (d) the new park at 222 Palmer, East Sydney
 - (e) The Crescent Lands, Annandale
 - (f) Gunyama Park, Green Square
 - (g) Drying Green Park
 - (h) City Centre Playground
 - (i) Sydney Park Skate Facility

2. The current timeline for the renewal of the following parks:
- (a) Kimberley Grove Playground, Rosebery
 - (b) Kirsova 2 Playground Erskineville
 - (c) Waterloo Fitness Station
 - (d) Hyde Park North pathway works
 - (e) Hyde Park South Works including Café
 - (f) Sportsfield Development Program
 - (g) Sydney Park CARES Precinct
 - (h) James Hilder, Surry Hills
 - (i) Beaconsfield Playground
 - (j) Daniel Dawson, Redfern
 - (k) Strickland Park, Chippendale
 - (l) Albert Reserve, Erskineville
 - (m) Redfern Skate
 - (n) Crete Reserve, Rosebery
 - (o) Clyne Reserve, Millers Point
 - (p) Womerah Gardens, Darlinghurst
 - (q) Wattle and Broadway Rest area Kings Lane Reserve, Darlinghurst
 - (r) Archibald Fountain and Water Stairs waterproofing
 - (s) Hyde Park Lighting
 - (t) Shannon Reserve, Surry Hills
 - (u) Ernest Pederson Reserve, Glebe
 - (v) Hollis Park Playground, Newtown
 - (w) Fig Lane Park playground, Ultimo
 - (x) Maybanke Park, Pyrmont
 - (y) Les White, Erskineville
 - (z) Ross Street Playground and 71 Alfred Road, Forest Lodge
 - (aa) Peace Park, Chippendale

- (bb) Douglas Street Peoples Park, Redfern
- (cc) Vine Street Reserve, Darlington
- (dd) South Sydney Rotary Park, Eveleigh
- (ee) Cardigan Reserve, Glebe

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Please see completion dates below:

1.

- (a) The childcare centre at 3 Joynton Avenue, Zetland - Late 2017
- (b) The childcare centre at Sydney Park Road, Alexandria - No longer a proposed project; alternate site located
- (c) The Dyuralya Square project - Early 2019
- (d) The new park at 222 Palmer, East Sydney - Late 2018
- (e) The Crescent Lands, Annandale - Early 2020
- (f) Gunyama Park, Green Square - Mid 2020
- (g) Drying Green Park - Late 2020
- (h) City Centre Playground - Mid 2022
- (i) Sydney Park Skate Facility - Mid 2020

2.

- (a) Kimberley Grove Playground, Rosebery - Mid 2018
- (b) Kirsova 2 Playground Erskineville - Mid 2018
- (c) Waterloo Fitness Station - Mid 2019
- (d) Hyde Park North pathway works - Mid 2018
- (e) Hyde Park South Works including Café - Late 2019
- (f) Sportsfield Development Program - Late 2024
- (g) Sydney Park CARES Precinct - Late 2019
- (h) James Hilder, Surry Hills - Late 2020
- (i) Beaconsfield Playground - Late 2020
- (j) Daniel Dawson, Redfern - Late 2020
- (k) Strickland Park, Chippendale - Late 2020

- (l) Albert Reserve, Erskineville - Project is yet to be programmed
- (m) Redfern Skate - Mid 2019
- (n) Crete Reserve, Rosebery- Mid 2019
- (o) Clyne Reserve, Millers Point - Late 2020
- (p) Womerah Gardens, Darlinghurst - Mid 2020
- (q) Wattle and Broadway Rest area Kings Lane Reserve, Darlinghurst - Late 2020
- (r) Archibald Fountain and Water Stairs waterproofing - Late 2019
- (s) Hyde Park Lighting - Mid 2021
- (t) Shannon Reserve, Surry Hills - Mid 2020
- (u) Ernest Pederson Reserve, Glebe - Mid 2020
- (v) Hollis Park Playground, Newtown - Late 2020
- (w) Fig Lane Park playground, Ultimo - Mid 2020
- (x) Maybanke Park, Pyrmont - Mid 2019
- (y) Les White, Erskineville - Mid 2019
- (z) Ross Street Playground and 71 Alfred Road, Forest Lodge - Mid 2020
- (aa) Peace Park, Chippendale - Mid 2021
- (bb) Douglas Street Peoples Park, Redfern - Mid 2020
- (cc) Vine Street Reserve, Darlington - Mid 2020
- (dd) South Sydney Rotary Park, Eveleigh - Mid 2021
- (ee) Cardigan Reserve, Glebe - Early 2021

S129275

Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party Cost Reallocation

14. By Councillor Chung

Question

In May 2017, the Lord Mayor announced that she would discontinue the New Year's Eve party, held at the Opera House. She announced that the \$760,000 cost of the party would be reallocated to accelerate and support initiatives under the 2016-2021 Environmental Action Strategy.

1. Could the Lord Mayor please detail the total costs for the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party, by year, since 2004?
2. Could the Lord Mayor please provide a detailed line item report on:
 - (a) which specific budget line items were increased as a result of the increased \$760,000 funding and what was the original budget before the increased funding; and
 - (b) what were the original time lines for each project and what is the revised timeline now that additional funds have been used to accelerate the program?
3. Will the increased funding allocated after the cancellation of the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party in 2017 to accelerate and support initiatives under the 2016-2021 Environmental Action Strategy be continued in future budgets?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The cost of the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party since 2012 is as follows:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
\$683,456	\$692,116	\$673,566	\$634,952	\$692,765	N/A

In 2016, I put a Lord Mayor Minute to Council noting the Deadline 2020 report by C40 which highlighted the desperate urgency of action on climate change. In response, Council requested the CEO accelerate the implementation of the 2016-2021 Environment Action Strategy.

The cancellation of the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve event at Sydney Opera House was one of the cost-savings measures identified during a detailed internal review during the development of the 2017-2018 budget to ensure the City could accelerate work on the Environmental Action 2016--2021 Strategy and Action Plan.

Cancelling the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve event has saved \$463,500 from the budget. Saving those funds was one of the budget savings that allowed the City to increase funding for climate related initiatives by \$2.4M.

Please refer to the report to Council on 8 May 2017, Integrated Planning and Reporting Program and Budget 2017/18 - Public Exhibition, for information about all the projects in the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan, and how they will accelerate out action on climate change.

The initiatives in 2017/18 and following years include:

- (a) efficiency initiatives, improved utilities management and better waste management practices;
- (b) amendments to planning controls to improve the environmental performance of new buildings, including the development of a planning pathway towards net-zero buildings;
- (c) utilisation of open data platform to report on local government area environmental programs;
- (d) use of this data to target sustainability programs;
- (e) enhancement of office tenancy sustainability programs;
- (f) energy tune-up programs for businesses and residential apartments; and
- (g) sustainability programs to encourage uptake of renewable energy.

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S129268