

Item 10**Questions on Notice with Answers****Cleansing and Waste in Camperdown**

1. By Councillor Scott

Question

Concerns have been raised with me regarding serious infestations of vermin in and around public housing structures in Camperdown, including in Johanna O'Dea Court.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. Of any cleansing and waste actions the City has taken, or plans to take, to ensure general streetscape and public space cleanliness is maintained in Camperdown, particularly surrounding the area of Johanna O'Dea Court?
2. Of any collaboration the City has undertaken, or plans to undertake, with the Department of Community and Family Services to address vermin infestation in this area?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. Cleansing and Waste's current schedule for Camperdown includes streetscape cleansing on a minimum of three days per week and there have not been any reported issues with the servicing in this area, including Johanna O'Dea Court. Cleansing will continue to maintain the cleansing schedule for this area.

The waste collection schedule for the Johanna O'Dea Court building has been maintained as required; there have been no reported issues with the current service from residents or the City's Contractor.

2. The City has received recent complaints about pests within Johanna O'Dea Court and have referred them to the Department of Community and Family Services. The Department of Community and Family Services is responsible for pest control within their properties.

S129275

Pedestrian Safety on Bridge Road

2. By Councillor Scott

Question

Residents have raised concerns about the lack of an adequate crossing of Bridge Road, Forest Lodge, between Foss and Cross Streets, opposite Junction Street. Local parents are especially concerned due to the large volume of school children who walk in this area, given the potential for increased truck movements by the Westconnex dive site soon to be operational at the end Bridge Road.

Could Councillors please be advised what, if any, plans the City has to mitigate the impacts of Westconnex truck movements and increase pedestrian safety on Bridge Road, Forest Lodge?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City places a high priority on improving pedestrian safety and accessibility and is keen wherever possible to implement traffic measures to encourage walking.

Bridge Road in Forest Lodge is a State Road controlled by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). The City has no authority to install traffic measures along Bridge Road.

City staff will raise the Westconnex truck movements and pedestrian safety concerns on Bridge Road with RMS and request that an update be provided to Council following completion of their investigation.

City staff will inform all Councillors following RMS's response.

S129275

Recycling in our City

3. By Councillor Scott

Question

The motion Recycling in Our City (S129266) was carried at Council in October 2018, and the motion Recycling Crisis (S129266) was successfully moved at Council in June 2018. These motions called on the CEO to investigate mechanisms to improve recycling in our City.

Could Councillors please be advised as to what, if any, progress has been made on the outcome of these motions?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City acknowledges the Waste and Recycling Crisis in NSW and Sydney. The NSW Government has failed to adequately plan for waste management, and there has been a significant and ongoing underinvestment in critical waste and recycling infrastructure in NSW.

The NSW Government needs to address this by:

- Re-investing 100% of the waste levy into waste management, including assistance for businesses that will build Australia's capacity to reprocess materials onshore.
- Appropriately allocating land resources to recycling and waste treatment, especially in the Sydney metro region.
- Improving the transparency and integrity of waste data from both residential and commercial producers and waste operators.
- Working with Councils to standardise waste collection practises and signage.

The Federal Government should address this by:

- Expanding national product stewardship schemes.

Since the adoption of the City's Leave Nothing to Waste: Strategy and Action Plan 2017 – 2021, the City has implemented a number of actions across our own organisation and in the community. The actions and example case studies have been included in the City's most recent edition of the Green Report July – December 2018.

Actions within our own organisation include:

- Food waste collections in Town Hall House commenced end November 2018.
- New guidelines and an online tool to assist developers in designing better spaces for waste and recycling.
- Operational changes at the City's depots to improve recycling of waste from streets and public domain areas.
- Development of Guidelines for reducing single use items at events and services.

Actions within our community include:

- Food waste trial for residents in apartments and houses starting before 1 July 2019.
- Weekly e-waste collections starting 1 July 2019.
- New signage for all apartment buildings and bins to improve recycling will be installed in time for the new collection contractor start in July 2019.

Staff continue to consider all options to improve recycling rates in the City. The recycling environment remains uncertain. As further information becomes available, the CEO will update Councillors.

S129275

Pedestrian Access Walsh Bay

4. By Councillor Scott

Question

The motion Pedestrian Access Walsh Bay (S129266) was carried at Council in February 2018, and called on the CEO to investigate increased pedestrian accessibility between Walsh Bay and Millers Point.

Could Councillors please be advised as to what, if any, progress has been made on the outcome of this motion?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

City Access and Transport staff have reviewed the existing pedestrian accessibility between Walsh Bay and Millers Point.

There are limited options for improving the connections. The viability of these options are currently being considered.

S129275

Funding for Redfern Legal Centre

5. By Councillor Scott

Question

The motion Funding for Redfern Legal Centre (S129266) was carried at Council in February 2018.

Could Councillors please be advised:

1. The exact nature of the City of Sydney's expansion in scope of the \$100,000 cash funding available to Redfern Legal Centre in supporting tenants of Waterloo and Redfern public housing?
2. Any other action the City has undertaken in supporting the Redfern Legal Centre in their work supporting the surrounding communities?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. In April 2016, Council awarded a grant of up to \$100,000 cash funding to Redfern Legal Centre to provide tenant support, advocacy and advice services to public housing tenants impacted by the Waterloo Metro plans. In response to the Redfern Legal Centre's initial request, the City has provided \$86,500 to commence their Waterloo outreach service, deliver a series of legal information sessions on tenant's rights in the relocation process, and publish and distribute free fact sheets about tenant's rights in the relocation process, including publications in community languages.

In response to a further request from Redfern Legal Centre, the City will release the remaining \$13,500 to ensure the continuity of the service until August 2019. There is no expansion of scope. Redfern Legal Centre has advised staff they intend to apply for multi-year funding in the current round of Community Services Grants closing 11 March 2019.

2. City staff regularly meet with Redfern Legal Centre regarding the Waterloo Outreach Service to ensure targeted legal support addressing the needs of tenants at the current stage of the redevelopment process.

In recent years, the City has funded a range of other grants with Redfern Legal Centre to support local communities, including international students and legal advice for boarders and lodgers. The City also collaborates with Redfern Legal Centre on community safety and wellbeing through outreach at community events. Redfern Legal Centre receives an accommodation grant from the City for their offices at Redfern Town Hall.

S129275

Bicycle Parking, Surry Hills

6. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 15 October 2014, the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee unanimously endorsed widening the footway and installing bicycle parking on the eastern side of Crown Street, Surry Hills, just south of the intersection of Fitzroy Place. The total cost of this exercise exceeded \$45,000.

It has recently been brought to my attention that the originally installed bicycle parking hoops have been removed and new hoops installed right next to the original placement.

1. Why has this work been undertaken?
2. When was this work approved?
3. Who approved this work?
4. What was the total cost of this work?
5. Was the now permanently closed Rapha cycling store adjacent to this work involved in any way with this work?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. The bicycle parking rails were damaged after a vehicle mounted the kerb and crashed into them in October 2018. The damaged bicycle parking rails posed a hazard to pedestrians and were removed. Replacement rails were subsequently installed.
2. The damaged bike parking rails were removed and replacement rails installed in October 2018.

3. The work was approved by the City's Maintenance staff.
4. \$1,400.
5. No.

S129269

Fig and Wattle Depot Sale

7. By Councillor Forster

Question

On 24 January 2019, it was widely reported that the City sold its Fig and Wattle Depot for more than \$200 million.

1. What was the total sale price of the Fig and Wattle Depot?
2. How much will the City of Sydney receive from this sale?
3. What is the City's intended use for these funds?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

Councillors were advised by the CEO on 21 December 2018 in the CEO Update that the City had entered into a contract of sale for a price of \$180M and will also receive stratum ownership of a 91 place childcare facility, two indoor recreation courts, and a through site link with lift. Sandstone blocks from any excavation on the site will be delivered to the City.

On 19 February 2018, Council resolved 'the proceeds from the sale being allocated to the funding of the City's 10 year capital works program'.

S129269

Trees in the CBD

8. By Councillor Forster

Question

On Saturday 2 February 2019, at approximately 6.15pm, a tree weighing thousands of kilograms located on the corner of York and Margaret Streets in the CBD fell across York Street, injuring one person. News reports suggest experts assessed the tree an hour before it fell after reports that the tree started to lean over. Furthermore, it was reported that at 5.45pm, the City of Sydney's Urban Forest Manager ordered the tree's immediate removal, however, the tree fell before equipment for its removal had arrived. Google Street View images dated July 2017 show the tree leaning substantially.

1. Prior to the brief assessment made just prior to its fall, when was the tree last properly assessed?
2. What was the result of this assessment?

3. How often are significant trees located within the CBD assessed?
4. What measures are taken if an adverse assessment is made of any tree within the CBD?
5. Are there any other trees located within the CBD that require immediate attention or removal?
6. What are the liability issues for the City if a person or people are injured or killed as a result of tree failure?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

High risk trees are always removed by the City. Responses to parts 1 to 5 were provided via CEO Update on 8 February 2019.

If the City has accepted liability for a tree failure and this has resulted in an injury to or death of any person, then the potential monetary exposure for the City for any claim of compensation made by a third party will be covered by the City's *Public and Products Liability* policy, subject to the policy terms and conditions.

The amount for which the City would be liable under this policy is:

- (a) The full claim amount, if the claim does not exceed AUD \$100,000;

OR

- (b) AUD \$100,000, if the claim is between AUD \$100,000 to AUD \$10,000,000 (the limit of indemnity)

Should the legal liability of the City be greater than the limit of indemnity (AUD \$10,000,000), then the City's *Excess Public and Products Liability* policy will be triggered. In this event, the City will bear (in addition to the AUD \$100,000 deductible), the cost of an additional policy deductible of AUD \$10,000,000. This will cover any claim up to and including AUD \$90,000,000.

S129269

Chinese New Year Advisory Committee

9. By Councillor Chung

Question

1. When was the Chinese New Year Advisory Committee disbanded?
2. Could the Lord Mayor please advise the reasons why the Committee was disbanded?
3. What consultation was done prior to the disbanding of the Chinese New Year Advisory committee? Please include who was consulted, on what dates and what submissions were made in response to the proposal to disband the Chinese New Year Advisory Committee.

4. If the Chinese New Year Advisory Committee has not been disbanded, please advise:
 - (a) the names of each member and the organisation that they represent;
 - (b) the dates, times and venue of each advisory meeting held in the past 24 months; and
 - (c) please provide a copy of the minutes for each meeting as detailed in 4(b) above.
5. Who appointed the curator for the 2019 Lunar New Year Festival?
6. What process was undertaken for the selection of the curator?
7. Who will be responsible for selecting the curator for future Lunar New Year events?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The last Chinese New Year Advisory Panel served from July 2016 for a period of 12 months in line with its Terms of Reference as adopted by Council in June 2016.

Throughout 2017 and 2018, the City engaged extensively with the community through public briefings and meetings including with the Haymarket Chamber of Commerce, the Cultural Consul at the Chinese Consulate-General, the China Cultural Centre and the Australia China Economics, Trade and Cultural Association, as well as the Korean Cultural Centre, Korean Consul-General, the Japan Foundation, the Japanese Consul-General, the Thai Consul-General, the Nepalese Consul General, the Indonesian Consul General, the Malaysian Consul General, the Vietnamese Centre and the Vietnamese Consul-General.

As per previous curators for the festival, the curator for 2019 was advertised via an Expression of Interest. The Expression of Interest was in market from 21 February 2018 to 18 March 2018 and advertised in ArtsHub, the City's corporate website, Creative City Sydney website and the Chinese New Year website. A media release was issued across all media channels. Social media posts promoting the curator Expression of Interest were made on the City's Facebook and Twitter feeds. Direct email notification was also sent to approximately 230 people including artists, gallery owners, cultural institutions, directors, curators, the City's Public Art Panel and Design Advisory Panel, as well as past members of the Chinese New Year Advisory Panel with relevant curatorial abilities or artist affiliations.

An evaluation panel assessed the submissions. Submissions were assessed against curator profile and experience, curator leadership and capacity, and appreciation and understanding of the scope. The selection for future festival curators will be via the same process.

S129268

Easy to do Business Initiative Update

10. By Councillor Chung

Question

In the August 2018 Questions on Notice, the Lord Mayor had advised that staff were soon meeting with Service NSW to begin Stage 1 of the implementation.

The City of Sydney "Easy to Do Business" program was expected to go live in January 2019 and has now been delayed further.

1. Can the Lord Mayor please advise why the decision was made by City staff to delay the implementation of the "Easy to do Business" program from January 2019 to at least March 2019?
2. Is the City of Sydney implementing the full "Easy to Do Business" program as recommended by the NSW State Government? If not, why not?
3. What measures is the City of Sydney taking to ensure that the "Easy To Do Business" program is widely publicised?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

1. City staff are working on a draft contract provided by Service NSW to clearly define the service, ensure seamless customer journeys across all touch points, and measurable service level expectations including qualitative measures.
2. This was addressed in the 13 August 2018 response to Questions on Notice (Item 12.5).
3. The City of Sydney will promote the service in the same way in which other councils in the program have, including targeted communication to the customer segment.

S129268

Electronic Voting Update

11. By Councillor Chung

Question

In September 2018, Councillors received a briefing on the results of City staff investigation of the feasibility of Electronic Voting. Councillors were told that Electronic Voting will be implemented in 2019 following an upgrade of technology in the Council Chambers to support it.

1. Since September 2018, what steps have been taken by City staff to install the appropriate technology in the Council Chambers?
2. What is the projected implementation date of Electronic Voting in Council?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

City staff have undertaken an assessment of electronic voting systems available both in Australia and internationally, taking into consideration their ability to integrate with existing software used by the City. City staff will shortly select a software solution.

The upgrade of the hardware in the Council Chamber is scheduled for April 2019. It is anticipated that electronic voting will be implemented in conjunction with this upgrade.

S129268

Royal Botanical Gardens New Year's Eve Party**12. By Councillor Chung**

I refer to the 2018/19 New Year's Eve event attended by the Lord Mayor and her invited guests.

Question

1. Who was invited to attend the 'Midnight at Oasis' event as a guest of the Lord Mayor?
2. Who attended the 'Midnight at Oasis' event as a guest of the Lord Mayor? Please provide the name of the individual and their relationship to the Lord Mayor.
3. What item in the 2018/19 budget will include the costs expended for this event? Where were the costs reallocated from to fund the Lord Mayor's guests' attendance at 'Midnight at Oasis'?
4. What was the total cost for the Lord Mayors 'Midnight at Oasis' New Years Eve event?
5. How many City of Sydney staff worked on or in support of the Lord Mayors 'Midnight at Oasis' event, including staff supporting the Lord Mayor? What was the cost associated with these staff? What were the duties for each of the staff?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

All City of Sydney Councillors and their partners, the State Member for Sydney and his husband, the City's CEO and partner and my Chief of Staff and partner were invited. Local charity groups - The Wayside Chapel and Settlement Services - were also asked to nominate two guests.

Everyone, apart from some Councillors, attended.

The total cost for the attendees was \$7,200 (excluding GST). These costs have been allocated within the Sydney New Year's Eve event budget and offset against the Dawes Point Event savings.

A member of the Major Events and Festivals team was on radio communication with Event Control. This was to ensure that important event communication could be received and delivered if required.

S129268

Renaming of Chinese New Year Festival

13. By Councillor Chung

Question

As reported in the media, a representative from the City advised that the Lord Mayor had consulted with leaders in the Chinese community of the decision to rename the Sydney Chinese New Year Festival to the Sydney Lunar Festival.

1. Can the Lord Mayor please provide a detailed explanation of the consultation process with the renaming of this event, including the methods of consultation, the groups and the amount of people who actively participated?
2. Can the Lord Mayor please advise how and why the decision was made to not actively seek public participation from a broad range of community members?
3. Could a list of submissions please be provided including the alternative suggestions for the renaming of the festival?
4. Where was the suggested renaming of the Chinese New Year festival advertised?

Answer by the Lord Mayor

The City of Sydney's celebrations for Chinese New Year have grown to become the largest in the world outside Asia. This year alone, the event attracted more than 1.3 million visitors.

The world-renowned event started as a community festival in Chinatown 22 years ago. Since then, it has evolved into an internationally renowned celebration and engaged a wide range of local communities including Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Indonesian, Malaysian, and Korean cultures. The event also features more than 80 associated events highlighting all these cultures.

In 2019, the City worked to take our Chinese New Year celebration further by expanding the event to the Sydney Lunar Festival.

Chinese New Year will always be a core element of the Sydney Lunar Festival, with many events, including the much-loved red packet walk and late night feasts, taking place in Chinatown.

We consulted with many community leaders about the change including:

- the Australian Kokkien Huay Kuan Association
- Assistant General Manager, TVB Australia
- Australian Chinese Finance Organisation
- Australia China Economics, Trade, and Culture Association
- Sing Tao Newspapers
- Golden Century
- Ultimo Community Centre Chinese Seniors Group

- Nanhai Media
- Australia China Economics, Trade, and Culture Association
- Chinese Youth League
- Haymarket Chamber of Commerce
- Cultural Consul at the Chinese Consulate-General
- China Cultural Centre
- Haymarket Chamber of Commerce
- Korean Consul-General
- Japanese Consul-General
- Thai Consul-General
- Vietnamese Consul-General
- President of Vietnam Centre Sydney
- Community Leader and Organiser of Sydney Korean Festival

S129268