

Attachment A

**Public Exhibition Submissions and
Responses 2019**

ISSUE 1**SUBMISSION RELATING TO JUANITA NEILSEN CENTRE****Issue**

Facilities at Juanita Neilsen Centre.

Background

A submission was received during the exhibition period from the Starlight Children's Foundation regarding the facilities at the Juanita Neilsen Centre which are available for public use. The submitter complimented the spaciousness of the centre, its modern technology and how well the centre is maintained.

Response

The City's vision is to provide community facilities that enhance the quality of life of all by providing accessible, quality, safe, needs-based, and multi-functional spaces for people to come together for social, cultural, recreational, and civic activities.

The Juanita Neilsen Centre at the corner of Dowling and Nicholson Streets Woolloomooloo is a community centre which has been open to the public since 1984. In 2016 the centre was upgraded with a new lift and accessible facilities, a state-of-the-art community gymnasium including new change rooms, new multipurpose spaces and a new outdoor play area and space for children's programs.

Council appreciates the positive feedback on the Juanita Neilsen Centre facility.

Recommendation

That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

ISSUE 2

SUBMISSION RELATING TO FOOTPATH RESTORATION

Issue

Footpath restoration after utilities and other contractors remove pavers to undertake works.

Background

A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public regarding restoration of footpaths after works have been undertaken, including the light rail project, which require pavement to be reinstated. The submitter made several requests: that the City prioritise the restoration of footpaths; that requirements be introduced for contractors to reuse the pavers that have been removed; and, that specific guidelines be implemented regarding the type of paver used as a replacement after works have been completed.

Response

Utilities are permitted to perform emergency repairs and service maintenance on public roads without Council approval. The City is working closely with public utilities to implement a more coordinated approach to emergency repairs and service maintenance on public roads.

Utilities are required to make the road safe while they carry out the works and temporarily close the opening on completion of the work. The City then permanently restores the road in accordance with the City's Street Code and Sydney Streets Technical Specifications; public utility covers the cost.

To aid sustainability the City encourages the preservation of existing paving materials wherever possible.

In regards to the new Light Rail corridor, the City is working closely with TfNSW and the Light Rail Contractor to ensure that pavement damages including by utilities are rectified prior to the handover of road reserve back to the City.

Recommendation

That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

ISSUE 3

TWO SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO PROPOSED BUILDING UPGRADE FINANCE FEES

Issue

The proposed administrative fees for Building Upgrade Finance services.

Background

Sustainable Australia Fund (previously Sustainable Melbourne Fund) provided two submissions in response to the proposed 2019/20 City of Sydney administrative fees charged to building owners who use the Building Upgrade Finance service.

Building Upgrade Finance has proven popular in Victoria where over 50 agreements have been transacted across multiple local government areas. Sustainable Australia Fund notes great variability in the scale and type of projects supported in Victoria, and suggests the proposed fees may present a barrier for smaller size projects.

Response

In October 2018, Council agreed to set the City's administrative fee for Environmental Upgrade Agreements at \$0 for those agreements under a value of \$500,000 until the end of FY18/19. This was to test whether our administrative fees presented a barrier for smaller projects, and hoping this change would catalyse additional applications. Setting the fee at \$0 has not resulted in additional building owners applying to use this type of funding through City of Sydney for smaller projects. Parramatta Council also waived their administrative fees for the next 10 transactions and have not gained any projects since the announcement of their fee waiver.

The City will continue to monitor enquiries and potential demand for projects seeking building upgrade finance and review the fees and charges schedule again in early 2020 prior to making recommendations for 2020/21.

Recommendation

That the submission is noted with no change to the 2019/20 fees as exhibited.

ISSUE 4

SUBMISSION RELATING TO UPGRADE OF AUSGRID LIGHTS TO SMARTPOLES

Issue

Upgrade and conversion of existing Ausgrid street lights to council controlled Smartpoles along the western side of Oxford Street, Paddington in the upcoming 2019-20 budget.

Background

A submission was received during the exhibition period from the Paddington Business Partnership (PBP) regarding a proposal to include funding for the upgrade and conversion of existing Ausgrid street lights to council controlled Smartpoles along the western side of Oxford Street, Paddington, between South Dowling Street to Queen Street. The proposal by the PBP requested that the City allocate funding in the 2019-20 budget for the following:

- Conversion of forty two (42) existing Ausgrid poles to City owned Smartpoles
- Ownership of the Smartpoles be retained by the City to facilitate community access as well as cost savings and revenue return to the City.

Response

The City has allocated funding in the 2019-20 budget for Smartpole upgrades within the Local Government Area. The proposed project is significant in scope and value, however the upgrade of existing street lighting to Smartpoles along Oxford Street will be considered as part of future capital works planning, in consultation with stakeholders.

Recommendation

That the submission is noted and no change to the documents as exhibited.

ISSUE 5

SUBMISSION RELATING TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, PLASTIC AND WATER BUBBLERS, “OLDER FOLK”, WASTE COLLECTION AND CAR SHARING

Issue

A range of issues have been raised via a submission from a member of the public during the exhibition period, related to the Integrated Planning Documents 2019. These are described in more detail below.

Background

- a) Pedestrians - a submission was received regarding the City's sentiments towards pedestrian safety. The submission specifically references conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists, the use of footpaths by cyclists and the walking behaviours of visitors.
- b) Plastic and water bubblers - a submission was received querying the number and location of water bubblers in the city, particularly at important community buildings. The submission also notes the recycling of plastic water bottles / rubbish.
- c) “Older Folk” – a submission was received regarding facilities and activities for “older folk”, including the importance of public gathering places.
- d) Waste Collection – a submission was received regarding the location of e-waste collection sites, and the potential to use CBD libraries.
- e) Transport – the submission included suggestions regarding illegal use of car share spots, lack of electric charging spots, introducing technology to monitor use of spots (and to fine), and provision of electric vehicle charging.

Response

a) Pedestrians

The City recognises the importance of a safe walking environment. The City has been continuously working to improve pedestrian safety, including advocating the NSW Government, throughout the city. Some of the City's achievements to improve pedestrian safety include prioritising walking and cycling in new developments like Green Square and Ashmore, upgrading and widening footpaths (such as recently at Foveaux Street), installing new footpath lighting and street furniture, successfully advocating for improved pedestrian amenity along George Street, advocating for reduced waiting times for pedestrians at signalised intersections throughout the city centre (with Transport for NSW recently agreeing to reduce the wait time from 110 to 90 seconds at many intersections), and advocating for reduced traffic speeds throughout the city and local centres (including 40 km/h zones).

The City holds regular on-site education sessions ("Share the Path") where we speak to both people walking and riding about their responsibilities and any concerns they may have. The City also engages with key stakeholders including bicycle food delivery service providers.

The City is proactively advocating for further pedestrian safety improvements, specifically to increase crossing times at intersections with high numbers of people walking, to implement pedestrian countdown timers at eligible intersections, to investigate more opportunities to allow people to cross diagonally at signalised intersections and to investigate technology able of registering people walking and automatically triggering traffic lights.

To improve visitor experience, the City has been improving wayfinding throughout the city and have an ongoing rollout of accessible wayfinding. Furthermore, the City has introduced walking maps for Harold Park and Chippendale and a Redfern short-cuts guide.

Item 4.1.4 in the Draft 2019/20 Operational Plan also identifies actions contributing to pedestrian safety.

b) Plastic and water bubblers

The City currently has over 220 bubblers across the local government area. New bubblers are typically installed when a park is upgraded, in response to community requests and when an existing bubbler reaches the end of its useful life. The City has added a bubbler with a water bottle refill point to its suite of park bubblers. These bubblers with a refill point will continue to be rolled out in future park upgrades where appropriate.

Regarding usage of plastic bottles, the City of Sydney has launched a new business pledge that will dramatically reduce single-use plastics. Industry leaders from the hospitality, events and property sectors came together to sign up to the Sydney Single-use Pledge. More than 30 organisations have so far taken the pledge, including Sydney Opera House, Fox Studios and Star Entertainment Group. The commitment means there will be fewer plastic bottles, straws, throwaway cups and food utensils at a growing number of Sydney hotels, entertainment venues, markets, festivals, major events and outdoor spaces.

d) “Older Folk”

The City’s 13 community and recreation centres offer a wide range of activities for residents, including older people. These include; community lunches, events (such as Senior’s Festival and Luna New Year Festival), twice weekly community bus trips through six centres, a podiatry service, bingo, table tennis, and a range of classes including gentle exercise, art and craft, language and digital skills. Our community bus service transports community members to and from our community centres, and on community bus trips, and we fund the Village to Village bus service, a free hop-on, hop-off service which enables resident to access local businesses, hospitals and more.

e) Waste Collection

The City has been providing quarterly e-waste events for a number of years. These events have been held at the City’s depots at Sydney Park, Ultimo and Alexandria. Patronage at these events has been increasing, with events held in February & June 2019 having in excess of 900 drop-offs at each event day.

The City also currently has deposit bins for batteries, light globes and mobile phones located within many of its Customer Service Centres and Libraries. The functionality and location of these bins is currently being reviewed.

In addition, from 1 July 2019 the City is introducing a booked kerbside e-waste collection that may suit residents who do not wish to travel to Alexandria. Residents will be able to book an e-waste collection via the City’s webpage or by contacting Customer Service.

Two (2) further e-waste events are scheduled for 2019; in September and November. A decision regarding scheduling further e-waste events in 2020 will be made on reviewing the demand at these events; given the new booked kerbside collection service.

f) Transport

The City's Car Sharing Policy supports the installation of dedicated on-street parking bays. In accordance with Roads and Maritime Services guidelines, car share parking bays are signposted with a 'No Parking car share vehicle excepted' restriction. The 'No Parking' restriction allows non-car share vehicles to stop to pick up or set down passengers, stop for up to 2 minutes and the driver must remain in or within 3m of the vehicle. In 2018, the City requested that the Roads and Maritime Service review the restriction and associated parking fine to deter illegal parking in car share bays.

The Central Sydney On-street Parking Policy establishes criteria and service objectives for allocating kerbside parking and loading in central Sydney. The hierarchy puts kerb side use for private vehicles as the lowest priority. Due to the high level of demand for on-street spaces in CBD, the City generally encourages operators to provide spaces off street. Similarly, electric vehicle charging generally takes place off street. Electric vehicle charging facilities are available at both of the City's parking stations at Goulburn Street and Kings Cross). Car share operators have previously trialled the use of electric car share vehicles in Sydney and Melbourne.

The City will continue to support electric vehicle charging and circuitry to be provided in new developments where parking is constructed on-site. It is expected that charging technology will advance quickly allowing vehicles to fast charge at service stations, off street parking facilities or even technological innovations such as using in-road charging systems.

Recommendation

That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.