

Item 10**Questions on Notice with Answers****Timeline Wilson Street, Newtown Cycleway Construction**

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Construction began in May 2019 on the Wilson Street, Newtown Cycleway. The project is expected to be completed in multiple sections.

Could the Chief Executive Office please provide:

1. The timeline and estimated completion date of each section of construction of the cycleway.
2. City correspondence to residents regarding notification of the timelines for construction.
3. The plans, if any, to remove the telegraph pole at Wilson and Golden Grove Streets, which currently sits in the middle of the cycleway and is a serious hazard to cyclists using the cycleway.

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The first section of the new cycleway along Wilson Street between Ivy Street and Codrington Street opened on 11 October 2019. Between Codrington Street and Golden Grove Street works are largely complete, barriers haven been removed and parking was reinstated on 19 September 2019. Works between Golden Grove Street and Burren Street are scheduled to be completed and the cycleway along Wilson Street opened for use by the end of 2019.

The final stage of the project is scheduled to be complete in March 2020. It includes the cycleway along Burren Street, shared path works in Leamington Lane and a cycle lane in Pine Street.

2. The City sent 3850 notification letters to residents prior to the construction start in May 2019. In addition to this City correspondence, Ford Civil has distributed at least 20 separate notification letters to thousands of residents within a 50-400m radius, providing information about specific construction dates and activities and related changes to local traffic arrangements.
3. This pole is to be removed as part of the works, noting that this section of the cycleway is not yet open.

Johnstons Creek Naturalisation Project

2. By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Request an update on the Johnstons Creek naturalisation project; a joint project between the City of Sydney and Sydney Water. Initial due date was early 2019 so this project is now behind schedule.
2. In addition how does this link with City's floodplain management plan for this area?

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

This project is being funded and managed by Sydney Water. A CEO update in March 2018 advised Council works were due to commence in January 2019. The commencement day is now January 2020. The City has been advised that changes in the schedule relate to Sydney Water's budgetary approval processes.

Johnstons Creek naturalisation project involves replacing the concrete walls with natural banks enhancing the natural environment around the lower section of the canal area. This project has neutral effects on the City's floodplain management plan of the area.

Castlereagh Street Cycleway

3. By Councillor Forster

Question

Last month it was reported in the media that the City of Sydney was considering a new separated cycle path along the northern end of Castlereagh Street which could be built if Transport for NSW (TfNSW) re-routes buses to Elizabeth Street as part of an overhaul of the network due to the start of light rail services in December.

1. What discussions has the City of Sydney had with TfNSW with regard to the potential cycle path along Castlereagh Street between Liverpool Street and King Street?
2. When will further information about this potential project become available to the public?
3. When will affected businesses along the route be notified of any proposed plans?

S129269

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

City staff have had one initial meeting with Transport for NSW on 16 October 2019, to explore what changes can be made to the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) 2013 design for the Castlereagh Street cycleway, to address issues raised in the previous community consultation.

When the City has better clarity on state government project requirements, we will start contacting key businesses and stakeholders, possibly in the next month, to gather information about their use of the street.

The City will commence broad consultation with businesses and stakeholders along the route once we have developed a new concept design, likely in the first quarter of 2020.

City of Sydney Information Kiosks

4. By Councillor Forster

Question

According to the City of Sydney website there are three information kiosks located around the local government area as well as a Visitor Information Centre located in The Rocks. Outside the RBA building in Martin Place there is an information kiosk that has been closed for a significant period of time.

1. Are there any plans to add to or subtract the number of kiosks, if so, in what locations?
2. Are there any plans to reopen the Martin Place information kiosk?

S129269

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The Rocks Visitor Information Centre is operated by a private commercial company, iConcierge, which is an Australian owned and operated company providing Tours and Attractions and local information in cities and regions.

The City operates two visitor information kiosks (Haymarket and Kings Cross), plus visitor services from Customs House.

We have 240 roaming ambassadors providing services to the visitor economy and Visitor Services staff who manage the kiosks, visitor enquiries and oversee operations and management of the team and pool of volunteers. We are on a continuous recruitment drive for volunteer ambassadors.

There are no plans to add any further kiosks to the City's offering of visitor information services. The City's focus is on increasing the 'Roaming Ambassador' program, to ensure we provide services in key areas where the visitors are located rather than at fixed kiosks.

The kiosk at Martin Place was not located in a high visitor foot traffic location. There are no plans to re-open this kiosk.

Public Art Advisory Panel

5. By Councillor Chung

Question

1. Can you confirm media reports in August 2019 that the Public Art Advisory Panel refused a nomination for a statue of three-time NSW Premier Sir James Martin KCB QC to be placed in Martin Place?
2. If so, why did the Public Art Advisory Panel reject the nomination when it is clear that Sir James Martin was a historically notable figure, three-time Premier of NSW, Attorney General and Chief Justice of NSW and significant figure in the history of Sydney?
3. Can you confirm the accuracy of the media report which states that the Lord Mayor overruled the Public Art Advisory Panel with an extract from Lord Mayoral correspondence "I have reconsidered your proposal and will agree to your request"?
4. Does the Lord Mayor have delegated power to overrule the Public Art Advisory Panel?
5. Who has delegated power to approve public art in Sydney?
6. When is the Public Art Policy due for review?
7. What criteria determine whether public art is approved under delegation or directly by Council?

S129268

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

While the Public Art Advisory Panel acknowledged the Lysicrates Foundation's work in introducing concepts of democracy to youth today and commended its work in supporting young playwrights, the Panel did not support the artwork.

The Panel made the following comments:

- Martin Place, one of Sydney's most iconic places, is already identified as such in recognition of Sir James Martin's life;
- The Sydney Cenotaph and Martin Place Reflection memorial resist the notion of a hierarchy of individuals in one of Sydney's most significant public places;

The proposal contradicts the City North Public Domain Plan endorsed by Council in December 2015, which aims to refine the presentation of Martin Place by reducing the number of elements within it; and

The proposal contradicts the City of Sydney's Public Art Acquisitions and Deaccessions Guidelines through: not being a contemporary and high quality artwork; through the direct appointment of an artist; and the lack of oversight by the City and the Public Art Advisory Panel.

As per the Terms of Reference approved by Council in September 2019 the Public Art Advisory Panel is an Advisory Panel only, and has no delegation of power of functions. The reports are therefore inaccurate, the panel has no power to make rulings and therefore cannot be overruled. Furthermore, the Statue of Sir James Martin has been submitted under a Crown Development Application and as such, the City has no authority to refuse the application.

The Lord Mayor has historically highly valued the independent expert advice of the Panel. In this case, she chose to publicly support the installation following written and public advocacy from the Treasurer, and due to the small and unobtrusive nature of the statue.

As per the City's Public Art Acquisition and Deaccession Guidelines, the Public Art Advisory Panel provides the City with independent expert advice on public art. Artworks at the concept design stage are assessed by the Public Art Advisory Panel who makes a recommendation regarding the suitability of the artwork for the City's collection. Depending on the work, the recommendation will be passed to the CEO, and where necessary Council, for approval. Public art is subject to all necessary planning approvals.

The City's Public Art Policy will be reviewed in 2021.

All Public Art commissioned by the City of Sydney is delivered in accordance with the City Art Public Art Strategy approved by Council in 2011 and in accordance with the delegations for procurement of all products and services by Council. Public Art delivered by others is subject to the any necessary planning approvals and these are reported to Council as per the delegations for planning approvals.

Climate Strike

6. By Councillor Chung

Question

On 20 September 2019, City of Sydney staff were invited by Council to participate in the Global Climate Strike. Can the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. How many staff attended the Global Climate Strike Rally?
2. How many staff attended the Global Climate Strike Rally during work hours?
3. How many staff took personal leave, annual leave or any other type of leave to attend the Global Climate Strike?
4. What assistance and resources did the City of Sydney provide for the Global Climate Strike rally including but not limited to facilities, event cleaning, promotion, staffing, advice, access and parking?

S129268

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

In accordance with the resolution of Council of 19 August 2019, the City supported staff who wished to attend the rally through access to flexible working arrangements and other forms of leave.

As these arrangements were managed locally within business units, and staff taking a leave are not required to provide the specific reason for their leave, we do not have data on how many staff attended the Climate Strike, whether within or outside work hours.

Also in accordance with the resolution of Council, the Climate Strike was promoted on the City's media and engagement channels including:

- City of Sydney News digest on 17 September 2019 (Environment section): <https://cityofsydneynews.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/j/64DEDC912CB2DF092540EF23F30FEDED>
- What's On email on 19 September 2019: <https://cityofsydney.createsend.com/campaigns/reports/viewCampaign.aspx?d=j&c=F72E89742D312C03&ID=F50319B3CD5F78102540EF23F30FEDED&temp=False&tx=0>
- What's On webpage: <https://whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/global-climate-strike>
- Instagram post on the day of the event: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B2ng-xxJC5S/>
- LinkedIn post on the day of the event

The Global Climate Change Strike was held in the Domain which is managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands). The City's Cleansing and Waste and Security Management staff were not required to assist with any clean-up or security matters. Streets adjacent to the Domain were cleaned as part of usual duties after the rally.

Sister Cities

7. By Councillor Chung

Question

Sydney has six Sister Cities around the world that according to the agreements signed share significant historical, cultural, social or geographic similarities with Sydney.

For each Sister City/Friendship City relationship:

1. Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide a line-by-line breakdown of cost associated with each City of Sydney Sister/Friendship relationships over the past five years?
2. How many City of Sydney staff are responsible for managing each Sister City relationships and coordinating events with Sister Cities? What are the duties for each of the staff? What percentage of each staff member's time is allocated to each Sister City relationship?
3. What City of Sydney resources are allocated to Sister/Friendship City agreements including use of facilities, catering and access to buildings and meeting space?

4. Since 2004, which Councillors have been invited or attended meetings associated with Sister/Friendship city relationships including with locally based people, Council staff and/or overseas delegations? Please detail by each meeting invited or attended?
5. Since 2004, please detail any visits from or to Sister/Friendship cities by staff, volunteers and or Councillors. Please include names, dates, purpose of visits, source of funding (whether City of Sydney or otherwise), outcomes of visits and any other information pertaining to visits?
6. What time, resources and funding will be allocated to Sister/Friendship city relationships in 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22?

S129268

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Each of the City's Sister City and Friendship Agreements were signed by the incumbent Lord Mayors beginning in 1968. We currently have six Sister and six Friendship City relationships. The City allocates \$30,000 per annum to support these and other international relationships. The funding is approved by, and within, Council's annual budget.

Support for Sister and Friendship City relationships is provided by many different staff within the organisation depending on the support required. The City's Protocol and International Engagement teams provide assistance but also have other responsibilities. Both teams host international delegations visiting Sydney, with Protocol also managing the City's Citizenship Ceremonies, Civic receptions and other functions. The International Engagement team also curates thought leadership and capacity building programs to:

- attract business, events, students and tourists to Sydney
- foster connections between local and foreign businesses
- organise investment showcases that promote the city and its economy
- build skills and facilitate knowledge exchange
- provide business grants throughout the year.

The City does not record the allocation of staff time to particular tasks. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the percentage of staff time allocated to Sister City relationships, individually or as a group.

Meeting spaces and secretariat assistance are provided for the active community committees of two Sister Cities, Nagoya and Portsmouth, who currently meet four times each per year.

Visits to our Sister or Friendship Cities are reported in the Annual Report which is available on the City's website. Additionally, international travel by Councillors is approved by Council with the Councillor reporting back to Council after the visit. These are also publicly available on the City's website.

Future allocations of resources and funding will be reported to Council for endorsement as part of future year's annual budgets.

Electoral Roll Progress Update

8. By Councillor Phelps

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide an update regarding the City's formation of a full electoral roll for the 2020 Council Election including: the stage of completion, level of business enrolment and the expected date of completion.

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The NSW Electoral Commission is responsible for preparing the City's electoral roll, which comprises the residential and non-residential rolls.

The City of Sydney residential roll is maintained in a complete form on an on-going basis by the NSW Electoral Commission.

The City maintains the non-residential register which is used to generate draft non-residential rolls for verification by the NSW Electoral Commission. Councillors agreed unanimously, through their endorsement of the Non-Residential Register Methodology and Plan 2017-2020, to receive bi-annual updates on the status of the non-residential register via CEO Update. The most recent was in the CEO Update of 24 May 2019 and the next update will be in November 2019. In addition, Councillors received an update on the non-residential register engagement activities leading up to the 2020 election in the CEO Update of 23 August 2019.

The electoral roll for the 2020 Council election will be completed by the NSW Electoral Commission shortly after close of rolls, which is 3 August 2020.