

Item 13.10

Notices of Motion

Kings Cross Car Park Usage

By Councillor Forster

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the tourism accommodation sector has been one of the hardest hit sectors throughout 2020, initially as a result of the catastrophic 2019/20 bushfire season and followed by the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic;
- (ii) even prior to 2020, it was reported that Sydney hotels were suffering their worst occupancy rates in a decade, with the rate falling below 80 per cent in September 2019;
- (iii) the Accommodation Association of Australia's September 2020 Sydney Market Performance report highlighted a dramatic decline in the sector within the Sydney CBD, with the average daily room rate (ADR) down 35.8 per cent, revenue per available room (RevPAR) down 74 per cent and occupancy down 59.5 per cent to 33.9 per cent;
- (iv) on 30 March 2020, the City proposed an amended grants program at an Extraordinary Council Meeting in response to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (v) the new grant rounds opened for applications in early April and closed on 27 April with each category heavily oversubscribed: for instance, the Small Business Grant Program had a budget of \$2 million and approximately \$28 million was requested by applicants;
- (vi) the tourism accommodation sector was largely overlooked during the City's Covid-19 grant support process, with the vast majority of tourism accommodation businesses unsuccessful with their applications;
- (vii) there are approximately 10 midscale or boutique hotels located in the Potts Point area, none of which received City of Sydney Covid-19 grant relief funding and all of which are struggling to stay open and/or in business during these difficult times; and
- (viii) there are a number of measures the City of Sydney could undertake to support these businesses; and

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) investigate the waiver or at least a significant reduction in fees being charged by the Council-owned Kings Cross Carpark for customers of local tourism accommodation operators in the surrounding area; and
 - (ii) liaise with these operators to discuss other forms of support that the City of Sydney can provide during the ongoing global pandemic.

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