

## Item 10

### Questions on Notice with Answers

#### Pop-Up Cycleway Surveys

1. By Councillor Forster

#### Question

At the City's September 2020 Council Meeting, the Chief Executive Officer advised that City staff were working with Transport NSW to assess the usage and operation of the pop-up cycleway program. Community members have reported City of Sydney staff conducting surveys of cyclists, but not local residents or business owners, around at least one pop-up cycleway.

1. How are these assessments being conducted?
2. Where are these assessments being conducted?
3. Who is being targeted to participate in these assessments?
4. What are the findings of these assessments?

S129269

#### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

As a part of the City of Sydney's and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) monitoring and evaluation of the pop-up cycleways, several different methods are being used to gather information from the community.

#### Intercept surveys of cycleway users

Intercept surveys have been undertaken with riders on all pop-up cycleways, which covers how safe riders feel on the cycleway, how they would have travelled if the cycleway wasn't there, and whether they have participated in any of the City's programs. The survey is being conducted by a third party (Pollinate) and their subcontractor, Polite People.

#### Telephone survey of the community

A telephone-based community survey has been undertaken to gather broad community views about transport-related measures to address the Covid-19 pandemic. This survey includes both households within the City of Sydney area and surrounding local government areas. This survey asked about levels of support for making more space for people to walk and ride (to allow more space for social distancing), and whether people would walk and ride more as a result. Respondents were also asked, in principal, how supportive they were of specific measures related to the allocation of road space, and whether they supported these measures even if they meant longer car journeys. The survey included questions related to working from home and whether respondents were likely to continue to do so.

## **Sydney Your Say survey and feedback page for residents and businesses**

Residents and businesses have been encouraged to give their feedback using the Sydney Your Say page which so far has around 1500 responses and comments.

The findings will be published in the Monitoring and Evaluation Reports.

## **Green Square Pool**

2. By Councillor Scott

### **Question**

Please detail the history of City of Sydney budget revotes for the Green Square Pool (now referred to as Gunyama).

Specifically, please provide the number of times the Council has resolved to amend the budget allocation (to revoke for timing or amounts or otherwise), in quarterly reports and otherwise, since the project began to be budgeted by the City of Sydney and the amounts amended.

S129272

### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

This information was provided in response to a Question on Notice at the 26 October 2020 Council meeting and the answer is reproduced below.

Construction of the Gunyama Park and Recreation Centre is forecast for completion in November 2020. Belgravia Leisure commenced their contract to operate the facility at the end of September. The planned opening date for the centre is 1 February 2021, subject to construction completion before Christmas 2020. Indoor and outdoor leisure water areas, the creche hydrotherapy pool and gym will open for customers at the same time the centre opens. The public artwork has been installed and tested onsite this month.

The 2007 cost estimate to Council was \$116.5M. This included:

- Aquatic Centre 50m pool: \$46.5M (This did not include provisions for the synthetic sport field and park)
- Sport – Health and Fitness Facility: \$21M
- Support Wellness Centre: \$14M
- Decontamination Allowance: \$15M
- Stormwater Management, Site and Streetscape Works: \$20M

The City included provision for the project in Long Term Financial Plans, but amounts are not finalised until a tender process is undertaken noting that the project has changed since conception.

In October 2017, Council accepted a tender offer and approved the project budget of \$102,855,998 for the construction of Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Due to project scope and timeframe amendments since 2017, including impacts related to Covid-19, the current total project budget is \$106.5M. This includes \$2.5M to improve the efficiency of the plant room and reduce emissions through the improvement to the heating system.

### **Bridge Road Cycleway Consultation**

3. By Councillor Phelps

#### **Question**

In a letter dated 20 October 2020 from the Lord Mayor to the Hon. Jamie Parker MP, member for Balmain, the Lord Mayor stated that "Transport for NSW and the City will assess the temporary cycleways while in use and we will consult fully on any proposal for a permanent cycleway on Pyrmont Bridge Road."

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. If the Minister for Transport and Roads, The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, has expressed a view on whether the Bridge Road cycleway will be made permanent?
2. Has anyone from the City of Sydney met or received an invitation to meet with Minister Constance or Transport for NSW to discuss the safety of the Bridge Road cycleway and any proposal for a permanent cycleway on Bridge Road?
3. Whether there is any proposal for a permanent cycleway on Bridge Road currently under consideration, and if so, how the consultation process with stakeholders, including residents, will be arranged?
4. If any market research companies or polling consultants have been engaged to advise Council or conduct community or other consultations on the merits, or otherwise, of a pop-up or permanent cycleway on Bridge Road, Glebe?
5. To your knowledge, have any of market research companies or polling consultants been authorised to offer any inducement to people to participate in their surveys?
6. What feedback is being provided to Bridge Road residents seeking information?

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#### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. No.
2. No.
3. No.
4. Intercept surveys on all pop-ups are part of the monitoring and evaluation plan.

5. The survey company have informed the City of Sydney that they are offering a small incentive (to take part in the survey) in the form of a prize draw for one of two \$250 prizes, due to the difficulty in getting people to stop when they are commuting to or from work and due to the length of the survey.
6. Residents are told they can register their interest and make comments on Sydney Your Say (<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/improving-streets-public-spaces/sign-up-to-have-your-say-on-pop-up-cycleways>) and that if and when there is a proposal for a permanent cycleway there will be full community consultation.

### **Pop-Up Cycleways Costs**

4. By Councillor Phelps

#### **Question**

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide an itemised list of how much has been spent for each of the six pop-up cycleways, broken down by cycleway, each associated cost and amount contributed by the City of Sydney and Transport for NSW.

S129272

#### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

The amount contributed by the City of Sydney is zero. All costs related to the pop-up cycleways, including promotion and education, and monitoring and evaluation are fully funded by Transport for NSW.

### **Pop-Up Cycleway Polling**

5. By Councillor Phelps

#### **Question**

There have been reports of polls being taken of cyclists using the pop-up cycleways. Participants are being told that this survey is being conducted on behalf of the City of Sydney, and offered entry into a prize draw to receive a \$500 99Bikes voucher for participating. However, when asked by a participant if there was to be any polling done of pedestrians, residents or businesses, the pollster confirmed her brief was limited to polling cyclists only.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What polls have been conducted on the pop-up cycleways?
2. Who has conducted each of the polls?
3. For each poll that has been conducted, what were the questions asked?
4. How were participants for these polls chosen?
5. When were these polls conducted?

6. What is the expenditure by City of Sydney on polling in relation to these cycleways since 1 July 2020?

S129272

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. The City of Sydney engaged a service provider to conduct the intercept surveys of pop-up cycleway users.
2. Surveying company Pollinate.
3. The questions cover how safe riders feel on the cycleway, how they would have travelled if the cycleway wasn't there, and whether they have participated in any of the City's programs.
4. It is an intercept survey, relying on people riding past to see the sign and stop.
5. Over the past couple of weeks.
6. Nothing – it is fully funded by Transport for NSW as part of the monitoring and evaluation plan.

**Fitzroy Street Bus Stop Closure**

6. By Councillor Phelps

**Question**

There have been reports from residents that the Fitzroy Street at Marshall Street bus stop near Moore Park Road has been closed as a result of the pop-up cycleway. According to residents this was due to the Bus Drivers Union believing that it was not a safe set up for buses to stop.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please:

1. Investigate these reports and confirm?
2. Advise if the bus stop is to be relocated to maintain amenity for the local community?

S129272

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. Yes.
2. The City does not know Transport for NSW's plans for the future of the bus stop.

## Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2023

7. By Councillor Phelps

### Question

At the 9 November 2020 Cultural and Creative Sub-Committee, the City of Sydney's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2023 was brought up for consideration.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. Which organisations were consulted for the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan and when?
2. What was the feedback provided to the City by these organisations?

S129272

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan was developed by expanding on the City's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan following its final report in 2018. The Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan is an internal strategy with 131 deliverables developed to focus on improving commitments to and relationships with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The City consults the community on what their priorities are.

Key consultation activities have included the Sustainable Sydney 2050 consultations, which have been used to inform the development of the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan. Other consultation activities undertaken were:

- First Nations Dialogue Forum May 2019 [https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/-/media/corporate/files/2020-07-migrated/files\\_f/first-peoples-dialogue-forum.pdf?download=true](https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/-/media/corporate/files/2020-07-migrated/files_f/first-peoples-dialogue-forum.pdf?download=true);
- Panel of panels 2019; and
- Sustainable Sydney 2050 consultation directly with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, May 2019.

During the development of the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, the Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council was consulted on the Reconciliation Action Plan actions in Relationships, Deliverables 1.1 and 1.2. and provided his support for the actions.

**Action 1.1** Review and strengthen the Principles of Cooperation with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to improve their implementation and awareness across the organisation.

**Timeframe:** By November 2021

**Responsibility:** Manager Indigenous Leadership and Engagement

**Action 1.2** Meet with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council four times per year to discuss the implementation of the Principles of Cooperation.

**Timeframe:** November 2021, November 2022, November 2023

**Responsibility:** Chief Executive Officer

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel were engaged through two consultation workshops in March 2020 and August 2020, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff were consulted in a separate workshop in March 2020. The Advisory Panel includes community members who live, work and study in the area, and people who work closely with local community organisations and services. The Advisory Panel is a key mechanism the City uses to seek guidance on relevant projects.

2. The Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council was consulted on the Reconciliation Action Plan Actions 1.1 and 1.2. and provided his support for the actions.

Some of the feedback from the Advisory Panel was:

- To stretch ourselves (the City) to do more
- Put community first
- Increase Indigenous leadership at the City, and succession planning
- Value culture
- Embed the Reconciliation Action Plan in operational plans
- Invest in social capital
- Sustainable vision and message
- That the City feels comfortable talking about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures.

## **Agency Staffing Costs**

8. By Councillor Scott

### **Question**

I note the \$34.1M referred to for staffing agency contracts in the tabled Quarterly Report.

Please detail the reasons for this contract allocation, and control mechanisms to ensure steps will be taken to ensure the funding will be kept within Budget.

Please detail whether expenditure for the 2020/2021 financial year is currently within Budget.

S129275

### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

The City utilises agency labour resources to meet operational requirements such as backfilling vacancies and absenteeism, and to acquire specialist skills needed for the delivery of time-limited projects such as the delivery of capital projects.

These agency staffing costs are closely monitored. Timesheets are reviewed and approved by supervising managers and managers regularly review expenditure against approved budgets in their areas of responsibility. This process occurs for both operating and capital project expenditure.

The operational salaries and wages budget include permanent staff salaries and agency staff costs. Savings in the permanent salaries arising from vacancies, may be offset against agency staff expenditure. As at the end of September 2020 the salaries and wages expenditure including agency staffing was favourable to budget.

Individual capital projects including technology capital projects also utilise agency staff resources. Costs in these projects are monitored by Project Managers and Directors. As at the end of September 2020 these projects are forecast to be delivered within their approved budgets.

Further details of the year to date variances have been provided in the Q1 Financial Report

## **Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre**

9. By Councillor Scott

### **Question**

Noting that:

- final approved budget for the construction of the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre was \$106.5M;
- that construction is forecast for completion in November 2020;
- the planned opening date for the centre is 1 February 2021, the final month of summer for Sydney; and
- Belgravia Leisure commenced their contract to operate the facility from the end of September 2020;

What is the cost of paying the contracted operator, Belgravia Leisure, for operating a closed pool and gym facility, until February 2020? Please detail what has been spent, and projected costs to be incurred.

S129275

### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre is the largest community asset the City has ever built. It is now in its final stages of construction with practical completion expected to be reached late November. Belgravia Leisure is projecting total visits for year one of 470,000 increasing to 680,000 in year three. Transitions to greenfield centres which operate seven days a week, in excess of 100 hour a week are complex and resource intensive. Belgravia has established a dedicated transition team with expertise to deliver the full scope of works required to have the centre ready to open to the public, including but not limited to:

- Recruit, onboard and train 149 staff

- Develop and run the Expression of Interest for sportsfield and water space allocation and finalised hire agreements
- Finalise procurement of fitness equipment
- Deliver strategic marketing campaign, including targeted pre-sales campaigns for fitness and learn to swim members
- Undertake key procurement activities including cleaning contract, plant and equipment maintenance, merchandise, retail suppliers
- Running a series of pre-opening visits to test processes and systems operations
- Develop supervision/lifeguard deployment plan
- Fit out procurement and installation
- IT and communications systems procurement and installation including internet, NBN, phone system, computers, printers etc
- Complete risk assessments and develop centre specific Covid Safety Plans for swimming, gym and café operations
- Integrated management system (management plans, policies, operations manuals)

Since Belgravia commenced transition at the end of September 2020, costs of \$79,476 have been incurred with a further \$1.05M projected to the end of January 2021. Almost half (47.5 per cent) of the total projected cost from October 2020 to opening is directly related to staffing costs with the remaining cost covering facility marketing, chemicals, equipment purchases, plant and equipment maintenance, insurances, IT equipment and licences and a facility pre-clean.