

Item 11

Questions on Notice with Answers

1. Pop-Up Cycleway Monitoring Study

By Councillor Forster

Question

At the City's July 2020 Council Meeting, it was resolved that the Chief Executive Officer be requested to commission an independent cycling, pedestrian and traffic monitoring study to monitor the changes in cycling, pedestrian and traffic uses as a result of the introduction of the new pop-up cycleways and progressively update the findings on the City's website.

At the City's September 2020 Council Meeting, it was stated that the timing and format of releasing the pop-up cycleway monitoring study results needed to be agreed with Transport for NSW.

On 30 November 2020, the City of Sydney posted a news story on its website indicating that the 'pop-ups serve more than 16,000 bike trips each week'.

The December 2020 Sydney City Newsletter stated that 'the new routes are popular with about 15,000 trips per week'.

1. Can the Chief Executive Officer please confirm when and where the monitoring study results can be accessed?
2. Can the Chief Executive Officer please provide the most up-to-date figures of cycling trips broken down by each pop-up cycleway?

S129269

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Transport for NSW are expected to release the Monitoring and Evaluation reports as soon as they have been approved by their Steering Committee.

The latest pop up cycleway count data is below.

Week Commencing	8/02/2021	Comments
Pop-up Cycleway		
Pitt Street, Sydney CBD	6,087	
Bridge Road, Glebe	2,887	On State-controlled road
Henderson Road, Erskineville	2,624	
Fitzroy Street, Surry Hills	1,492	Missing 3 days of data (Fri-Sun) due to upload issues

Week Commencing	8/02/2021	Comments
Pop-up Cycleway		
Moore Park Road, Paddington	1,870	Missing two days of data (Mon-Tues) due to broken counter
Sydney Park Road, Erskineville	959	On State-controlled road
Dunning Ave (Rosebery)	792	Counter on southbound cycleway only, this figure estimated by doubling single side count
Total	16,711	
Average increase since previous week	4%	Adjusting for data gaps outlined above

2. Residential Apartments in 120 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

By Councillor Phelps

Question

There are a number of residential apartments in 120 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst. The City of Sydney owned this property until its 99-year lease to Ashe Morgan in 2019.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. How many residential apartments are in this building?
2. When was the last time these apartments were occupied?
3. To whom were these apartments last leased?

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Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

There were fourteen studios on Level 1 and Level 2 of the building. The rooms were last used for low cost housing in 2001 and leased up to that time by Darlinghurst Area Residential Tenancy (DART) CoOp Ltd. All residents were relocated in 2001 by DART CoOp to alternative support accommodation.

The properties were transferred to the City's ownership in early 2004 when former South Sydney Council was amalgamated into the City.

The upper floors of 116-122 Oxford Street were in a dilapidated condition when transferred to the City and required substantial upgrade. Refurbishment of the upper floors for the previous residential use could not be pursued without considerable intervention and cost in addition to impacting the retail tenants below. Moreover, continued use as residential for special needs or vulnerable persons in that location would need to have regard to the day and night-time activity along the street and suitable support facilities and network.

3. Flammable Cladding in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Phelps

Question

In 2019, it was revealed that there were more than 300 buildings in the City of Sydney Local Government Area with potentially flammable cladding.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. If a safety audit of the flammable cladding risk has been conducted for all affected buildings in the City of Sydney Local Government Area? If so, when?
2. How many buildings in the City of Sydney Local Government Area have had their flammable cladding issues rectified?
3. How many buildings in the City of Sydney Local Government Area still have the flammable cladding?
4. When is the next audit of the flammable cladding risk to be done?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Councillors receive regular updates on the City's fire safety compliance dealing with combustible cladding. Please refer to the 18 December 2020 CEO Update for the latest information.

4. Cloud Arch Spending

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide an itemised amount spent to date on the Cloud Arch project?

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Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The final costs incurred for the project were \$2,215,709 (excluding GST), including \$2,062,393 for design.

On 10 December 2018, Council approved the deferral of the Cloud Arch project until after the construction of Light Rail is completed so that the feasibility of incorporating Cloud Arch into the future Town Hall Square project can be considered, noting that funding for the future Town Hall Square project will need to be considered in future budgets.

5. Temporary Pop-Up Cycleways

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Legislation which enables the City of Sydney's six pop-up cycleways expires on 25 March, 2021.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise what the City of Sydney's position on making each pop-up cycleway permanent or the date of removal is, including:

1. Henderson Road, Railway Parade and Bridge Street, Alexandria?
2. Pyrmont Bridge Road, Glebe?
3. Moore Park Road and Fitzroy Street, Paddington?
4. Dunning Avenue, Rosebery?
5. Sydney Park Road, Erskineville?
6. Pitt Street, Sydney?

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Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Henderson Road, Railway Parade and Bridge Street (Alexandria) – the City undertook consultation on the permanent design for this cycleway in November and December 2020. A report will be submitted to Council for determination.

Pitt Street, Moore Park Road, Fitzroy Street and Dunning Avenue are still being assessed.

Sydney Park Road and Pyrmont Bridge Road (Glebe) – these pop-up cycleways are on State Roads, with Transport for NSW to determine.

6. City of Sydney Short-Term Empty Properties Grant

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Under the City of Sydney's short-term empty properties grant, not-for-profits, for-profits, sole traders, and community groups are able to access empty spaces within the City at affordable rates.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. How many empty City-owned properties are there in the Local Government Area?
2. Which empty City-owned properties are included under the grant?
3. How long have these empty properties been unoccupied?

4. Who was the last occupier of these properties and when?
5. What are the addresses of these properties?
6. How many of the City's empty properties are residential and how many are commercial?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City owns commercial and community properties, including retail and office space, across the local area that may be empty for short periods between tenancies. The Short-term empty properties (STEP) grant program provides immediate and short-term activation of these temporarily vacant properties. Under this program, properties whether it be whole buildings or lettable spaces within buildings are offered from one month to one year. All vacant buildings and lettable spaces are considered eligible for the STEP program, subject to compatible Permitted Use.

Vacant buildings are those that can be legally occupied or leased.

While there are no vacant City-owned buildings, there are lettable spaces that form part of a building which may be vacant following the end of a lease. Currently, there are 7,216 square meters of vacant lettable spaces as per the table below. The City's current property portfolio vacancy rate is substantially below the current Sydney CBD Market vacancy rate of 8.6%.

Of the vacant lettable spaces listed below, 78 per cent are offices, 22 per cent are retail. There are no vacant residential properties.

Building Name	Lettable Spaces	Vacant Since	Last Tenant/s	Leasing Status
Commercial/ Office				
137-155 Palmer Street	Northern & Southern section	Apr-20	Budget Rent A Car	Premises on the market
101-111 William Street	L1 & 2	Apr-19	Hub Australia	Premises on the market
307 Pitt Street	Suite 13.02	Sep-20	Universal Professional Services	Premises on the market
309-313 Pitt Street	Strata Lot 48 SP53565 - Suite 203B + Strata Lot 3 SP 18382 - Suite 3 & 4	Nov-19	Newstars Education; Ausuccess	Premises on the market

Building Name	Lettable Spaces	Vacant Since	Last Tenant/s	Leasing Status
343 George Street	L1: Suites 1,4,5,6,7&8; L2: Suites 2.02, 2.03, L3: Suite 302A	Jul-20	The Hornery Institute; Global Capital; Corolla Services; Attribute Consulting; CH Sydney; The Institute of Executive Coaching.	Premises on the market
456 Kent Street	Suite 19.02, Level 19	Jan-21	AMPCo	Premises on the market
King Street Retail Holding - Harry Burland Hall	L1	Aug-20	Federation of Aids	Premises on the market
Park House	Suites 2.01 & 5.06	Feb-20	John Capsanis; Realview	Premises on the market
Wilcox Mofflin Building	Ground Suites 1 & 2	Jun-18	DDB	Premises on the market
Retail				
Customs House	Grd Floor Retail	May-19	Young Alfred Café	Premises on the market
Pittsway Arcade	Basement BA, BB, BH, Suites 4.01, 6.01	Sep-19	Sunfoo Pty Ltd; Nguyen; Sangdon Lee; E-care Accounting; Englishwise	Premises on the market

7. City of Sydney Printed Newsletters

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please detail:

1. The amount of money spent to produce, print and distribute each City of Sydney hard-copy newsletter?
2. How many City of Sydney newsletters have been produced from 2016-2020?

3. How much money has been spent producing, printing and distributing City of Sydney hard-copy newsletters from 2016-2020?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Current cost: \$42,800.
2. 26.
3. \$1,133,957.

8. Street Furniture Recycling

By Councillor Phelps

Question

A Sydney Morning Herald article, dated 11 February 2021, on the replacement of street furniture across the City of Sydney raised concerns that a large proportion of existing street furniture will end up in landfill.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What was the City of Sydney's intended outcome from replacing existing street furniture?
2. What assurances has the City of Sydney received that existing street furniture will be reused or recycled?
3. How much revenue is the new contractor likely to receive from advertising and other sources over the course of the contract?
4. How much revenue is the City expecting to receive over the course of the contract?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Council considered and endorsed Direct Contract Negotiations - Street Furniture, Out-of-Home Media and WiFi Services at the 29 June 2020 Council meeting. Please refer to the report and confidential attachments which provide the requested information.

9. T2 Building Maintenance Costs

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide an itemised account of the holding and maintenance costs, including the commercial property manager fees on the T2 building from its purchase in 2009 to its sale in 2016?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City acquired the above mentioned property in January 2010. The annual maintenance cost for the property to FY2016 was approximately \$26,300. The annual management fees was approximately \$15,500.

10. T2 Mural Cost

By Councillor Phelps

Question

In 2012, Aboriginal artist Reko Rennie painted the 'Always Was, Always Will Be' artwork on the T2 building in Taylor Square.

The building was sold in 2016.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide how much was spent on the "Always Was, Always Will Be" artwork commissioned by the City of Sydney that wrapped the T2 building in Taylor Square?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

In August 2012, the City commissioned the temporary painted artwork, Always was, always will be by artist Reko Rennie supported by Cracknell and Lonergan Architects as part of the City's Streetware Program.

The artwork was initially intended to last six months, however the bright vibrant paintwork and strong message resonated with community and in November 2012, Council unanimously resolved that Planning consent be sought to retain the artwork for an additional two years. This was later extended to September 2017. The art work was repainted in 2013 to ensure it would last for the extended period.

The total costs for the life of the artwork are \$109,100

11. Lunar Lanterns and Statues

By Councillor Chung

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. How many Lunar Lanterns and statues are installed in the City of Sydney for 2021 Lunar New Year?
2. What was the total cost of manufacture and installation of the Lunar Lanterns and statues?
3. How many security personnel have been allocated to guard each lantern and statue?
4. What are the duties for each security guard?
5. How many hours a day and how many days a week is each Lunar Lantern and statue guarded?
6. What is the total cost for security to guard the Lunar Lanterns and statues?

S129268

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. There are 16 installations in total – 12 Lunar Lanterns, three Lunar Gateways and the Dixon Street Lantern Curtain.
2. The total cost for the build and installation of new lanterns and reinstallation of the existing lanterns, Lunar Gateways and Dixon Street Lantern Curtain is approximately \$595,000 (excluding GST)
3. There are 12 guards in total, with one allocated to each of the 12 Lunar Lanterns.
4. The guard allocated to the Dog Lantern in Barack Street also covers the three Lunar Gateways in Martin Place. The Lantern Curtain in Dixon Street Mall does not require security.
5. Duties include asset protection, lantern information and Covid safe marshal.
6. The total cost is approximately \$205,000 (excluding GST) for 24 hours a day during the Festival period (10 days) and additional time for installation and dismantle.

12. Park Street Traffic Enforcement

By Councillor Chung

Question

1. Can the Chief Executive Officer please provide an update of the following data related to Ranger patrol on Park Street Erskineville since 14 December 2020:
 - (a) What dates and times (start and finish) have rangers attended Park Street Erskineville for the purposes of enforcing the 3T limit and 40km/hr speed limit?
 - (b) How many vehicles have been detected contravening the '3 Tonne - No Truck' signage?
 - (c) How many vehicles have been detected contravening the "40km/hr" signage?
 - (d) How many infringement notices have been issued for breaching the 3T weight limit and 40km/hr speed limit?
2. Please provide copies of correspondence or details of discussions with State Rail, Holland or other rail contractors sent in accordance with Notice of Motion - Traffic Calming Park Street Erskineville on 14 December 2020.
3. What immediate steps were taken after 14 December 2020 to reduce the impacts of the additional traffic caused by the pop-up cycleway in Park Street?

S129268

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1.
 - (a) 16 December 2020 6am to 2:30pm
23 December 2020 6am to 2:30pm
23 December 2020 1pm to 9:30pm
14 January 2021 6am to 2:30pm
14 January 2021 1pm to 9:30pm
10 February 2021 6am to 2:30pm
17 February 2021 6am to 2:30pm
18 February 2021 1pm to 9:30pm

Rangers will undertake increased targeted patrols in this area.

City Rangers do not have authority to regulate or enforce on-road speed limits. NSW Police are the appropriate Regulatory Authority for the 40km/hr speed limit enforcement.

- (b) 11 heavy vehicles have been detected and letters issued to the registered owners. Letters are issued to show cause and nominate driver for penalty notice.
 - (c) City Rangers do not have authority to regulate or enforce on-road speed limits including the 40km/hr speed limit, this authority is held by NSW Police.
 - (d) Two Penalty Notices have been issued for breaching the 3T Limit. Nine are still pending responses from the owners. City Rangers are not authorised to issue Penalty Notices for speeding offences.
2. City staff have been in contact with Next Rail (Next Rail is an Incentivised Delivery Entity comprising of John Holland, Jacobs and Transport for NSW) since December 2020 to stop trucks from using Park Street to access the Railway Yard along Railway Parade, Erskineville. Most recently (February 2021), Next Rail have advised City Staff that their contractors' heavy vehicles will use Henderson Road instead of Park Street to access the Railway Yard.
3. Recent actions include:
- (a) Installation of 3 tonne load limit signs.
 - (b) Increased City Ranger patrols and load limit enforcement.
 - (c) Request to Transport for NSW to install extra 40km/h speed limit sign – Completed by Transport for NSW.
 - (d) Analysis of all community consultation responses and development of a draft concept plan for Park Street traffic calming.
 - (e) Request to Sydney Trains for vehicles not to use Park Street
 - (f) Request to Transport for NSW to allow a right turn ban from Park Street into Henderson Road.

13. 161-165 Brougham Street, Woolloomooloo

By Councillor Phelps

Question

In October 2020, residents of 161-165 Brougham Street, Woolloomooloo stated their intent to move into the apartment block to the City of Sydney.

The City advised that it would make a decision on the outcome of issuing an occupation certificate after the Land and Environment Court had made a decision on the change of Development Application requested by the Developer. This decision was handed down in October 2020.

The City has not yet decided whether it will issue an occupation certificate, nor has it decided if it will evict any of the residents already living in their properties.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What was the decision by the Land and Environment Court?

2. What actions has the City taken to issue an occupation certificate?
3. If an occupation certificate is not immediately issued, what action does the Council intend to take?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Councillors were advised of the outcome of these Land and Environment Court proceedings by a Confidential CEO Update on 4 December 2020. Please refer to that update for a detailed summary of the decision and its implications.