

Item 11

Questions on Notice

1. City of Sydney Christmas Parties

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Every year, the City of Sydney hosts a series of Christmas parties over the course of November and December.

However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, an invite-only 2020 Christmas Party was delayed until 21 April 2021.

The City also plans to host other delayed Christmas parties in 2021.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What was the cost of the 2019 Christmas parties, broken down by event?
2. What was the cost of the invite-only Christmas Party on 21 April 2021?
3. Who determined the list of people invited to the Christmas Party?
4. What is the budgeted cost for the upcoming Community Christmas Party on 19 May 2021?

S129272

2. Billboard Advertising at Top of the Town Building, Darlinghurst

By Councillor Phelps

Question

On 14 November 2020, an 18-storey painted portrait advertisement for the Binge series 'The Undoing' starring Nicole Kidman was completed on the Top of the Town building, Darlinghurst. No Development Application was submitted for this advertisement, and it was taken down on 23 November 2020.

This has been replaced by an equally sizeable advertisement for avocados in this same place.

There are concerns from the local community as to whether DA requirements will be adhered to with this avocado advertisement, and into the future.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What action was taken by the City of Sydney regarding the Nicole Kidman portrait after it became aware of no DA submission?
2. Was a DA submitted for the current avocado advertisement?
3. If no DA was submitted for the avocado advertisement, what action will the City take?
4. What future action is anticipated if the Top of the Town building continues to allow advertisements without approval from the City?

S129272

3. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Update

By Councillor Phelps

Question

On 14 December 2020, Council unanimously passed the motion "Removing Barriers to Enable More Electric Vehicles in the City of Sydney". This motion focused partly on embracing infrastructure that accommodates for electric vehicles, stating that "two thirds of motorists point to charging infrastructure as the single greatest barrier to electric vehicle adoption".

The Pyrmont Action Group (PAG) has contacted my office inquiring about the progress for a stronger EV charging station rollout. PAG also mentioned a site desired for a public EV charging station is owned by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and is leased by the City of Sydney.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What is the general progress update for this EV charging station rollout?
2. What is the progress update in making the property leased by the City a public EV charging station?

S129272

4. Office of the Lord Mayor Expenditure

By Councillor Phelps

Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide an itemised list of the Office of the Lord Mayor's expenditure for FY 2020/21 to date?

S129272

5. Park Upgrade and Street Opening Event Costs

By Councillor Phelps

Question

The City of Sydney's parks and open spaces provide for the diverse recreational needs of our communities.

The City periodically upgrades these parks. Once these upgrades are complete, the City hosts a park upgrade opening event which often includes refreshment and music acts.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide:

1. A list of all of the park upgrade and street opening events since 1 January 2021, including the location of these events?
2. How many council staff are present at each event?
3. What the budgeted cost for each event is?
4. The itemised cost of each park upgrade event including but not limited to staff costs, overtime, entertainment and refreshments?
5. How many more events of this nature are planned between now and 4 September 2021?

S129272

6. Rubbish Collection in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Phelps

Question

On 1 July 2019, the City of Sydney outsourced its rubbish collection to Cleanaway, a private business.

Since this outsourcing came into effect, Councillors have received an influx of complaints from residents as to the reduced quality of rubbish collection across the local government area.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. How many complaints has council received regarding rubbish collection in the City of Sydney since 1 July 2019?
2. What are the nature of these complaints?
3. How does the City address these complaints?

S129272

7. Tree Felling at Portman Street, Zetland

By Councillor Phelps

Question

On 20 April 2021, workers from the development at Portman Street, Zetland were seen felling a Poplar Tree with a brushtail possum still in residence.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What is the City's protocol for workers felling trees, if an animal is residing in the tree?
2. Was a member from WIRES contacted on 20 April 2021 in relation to the tree felling at 15 Portman Street?
3. If so, did a member from WIRES appear on the scene?
4. How the City studies the environmental impact of existing habitat trees, and the impact of their removal?
5. How does the City consider techniques for undergrounding wires which could save existing trees and prevent the removal of mature trees?

S129272

8. Trees at 3 Stirling Street, Camperdown

By Councillor Phelps

Question

In April 2020, Saving Sydney's Trees (SST) and several community members objected to a Development Application (DA) for a new fence at 3 Stirling Street, Camperdown as it would threaten the viability of the historic and significant Booth Street Fig trees. This DA was approved on 6 April 2020, at the City of Sydney Local Planning Panel meeting.

These trees have a significant heritage status, they are a public amenity, an environmental asset and provide extensive canopy for the street.

An arborist presented to the Planning Panel, stating there would be "catastrophic consequences" if the trees were removed. In response, the panel implemented binding conditions on any works that may negatively impact the trees.

However, community members and SST have observed the initiation of the removal of the Booth Street fence at the expense of these trees.

SST have expressed their concerns that these binding conditions will not be met, and residents have requested further protection for these trees.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What is the timeline for the removal of the fence?
2. How does council plan to preserve and protect the Booth Street trees during these works on the fence?
3. Will the council consider alternative methods of restoring the fence, as proposed by SST, to best protect the trees?

S129272

9. Soil Toxicity in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. How regularly does the City test soil on public land for lead and other heavy metals?
2. Other than lead, what heavy metals does the City test for?
3. Where are the results from this testing released?
4. If not released, will the City commit to publishing any and all test results from the last decade on the City's website, to be updated when new testing occurs?

S129275