

## Item 12

### Questions on Notice

#### 1. Black Lives Matter Mural

By Councillor Scott

##### Question

Recent media reports detail phone calls made by NSW Police to the City of Sydney requesting the removal of a Black Lives Matter mural on a private property in Redfern. The mural was painted over within 24 hours.

Can the Chief Executive Officer advise the following:

1. How many calls were made by NSW Police in relation to the mural and to which section of Council were the calls referred?
2. Under which Policy was this mural removed? As Council's Graffiti Management Policy allows for 'legitimate avenues for the expression and dissemination of community information and street art' and this was clearly art, not graffiti.
3. Does Council have the power to remove art from private property?
4. Were any political representatives consulted? Is so, who?

S129275

#### 2. Cloud Arch Sculpture

By Councillor Scott

##### Question

1. How much has the Cloud Arch sculpture, planned for George Street, cost the City of Sydney?
2. Now that the Light Rail is complete, and the City only deferred the project, when will it be revisited?
3. How much is planned to be spent on the project if it is to proceed?

S129275

### **3. The Minerva Theatre**

By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

There has been calls and a campaign launched for the City of Sydney to buy the historic Metro Theatre Kings Cross (formerly Minerva Theatre) and turn it back into a working theatre.

Can the Chief Executive Officer advise:

1. Has the City formally investigated purchasing this site? If so, for how much?
2. If no purchase is on the table what assistance can and has the City provided for the restoration, use and ongoing operations of the Metro as a live theatre or cultural facility?

S129275

### **4. Staffing in Lord Mayor's Office**

By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

1. How many staff currently work in the Lord Mayor's Office and what is the annual cost?
2. How many staff and what budget is planned for the 2021/22 financial year?

S129275

### **5. Support Sydney's Homeless**

By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

In July 2020, the City of Sydney released a Homelessness Action Plan to help the vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Can the Chief Executive Officer advise:

1. How many initiatives have been completed under this Plan?
2. How many homeless have been helped under this Plan?
3. Which projects have begun but not been completed under this Plan?

4. Is this Plan continuing in the 2021/22 Financial Year? If so, how much is in the Budget to complete the Plan?

S129275

## **6. Hollis Park Rainbow Crossing**

By Councillor Scott

### **Question**

What is the timeframe for completion of the rainbow crossing in Hollis Park?

S129275

## **7. Milk Crate Sculpture**

By Councillor Scott

### **Question**

1. How much has the City spent on the milk crate sculpture planned for Belmore Park in total?
2. How much has been or continues to be paid to the artist for the creation of the sculpture?
3. Has the project been axed? If so, who made the decision and when?
4. Are any further art installations planned for Belmore Park?

S129275

## **8. Emergency Services Levy**

By Councillor Scott

### **Question**

1. How much did the City pay in the Emergency Services Levy in 2020/21?
2. How much is the City expected to pay for the upcoming 2021/22 Financial Year?
3. If the City no longer had to pay for this Levy what would the funding be diverted to instead?

S129275

## 9. 2021/22 Budget

By Councillor Chung

### Question

#### Commercial Properties

1. Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide a short narrative on the modelling and thinking of staff regarding the expected return from rentals from commercial properties post Covid-19 under the scenarios reported?

#### Footway Licenses

2. Why do footway licenses return to \$1.5 million in the 2022/23 year and then double to \$3 million in 2023/24?

#### Childcare Fee Income

3. Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide an expenditure report on how much the City of Sydney spends on childcare including, but not limited to, centres, staff, grants and internal staff?

#### Consultancies

4. Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide a list of the known consultancies for the forthcoming year and the expected expenditure on each consultancy?

#### Staffing

5. Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide a list of the roles and number of staff employed and costs related to general communications, media relations and other communications staff?

#### General Contingencies

6. The source of funds for unplanned funding is often referred to as "General Contingency". Can the Chief Executive Officer please identify where that funds sits and how much is contained in it?

#### City Business and Safety

7. Could the Chief Executive Officer please detail the programs and activities contained under City Business and Safety. How many staff are employed?

The Office of the Lord Mayor is budgeted for \$41.6 million over the next 10 years.

8. How many staff are employed?
9. How much of the budget is dedicated to employment costs?
10. Please advise the cost centre for the driver and vehicle for the Lord Mayor.
11. Please advise the cost centre for audio visual equipment used by the Office of the Lord Mayor.
12. Please advise the cost centre for catering and hospitality for the Office of the Lord Mayor.

13. How many staff outside the Office of the Lord Mayor provide support to the Office of the Lord Mayor?
14. Please detail any other resources afforded to the Lord Mayor and Office of the Lord Mayor which are not contained within the Office of the Lord Mayor budget.

#### Public Art Budget

15. Over the 10-year \$19 million public art budget, what projects are sitting on the books for consideration?
16. Has the Cloud Arch been permanently abandoned as a potential future project?
17. How much has been spent so far on Cloud Arch?
18. How much is it expected to cost to build?
19. Has the Pavillion been permanently abandoned as a potential future project?
20. How much is expected to be spent on the Pavillion should it proceed?
21. How much has been spent to date on the Pavillion project?

#### Public Domain

22. How much money for asset renewal and enhancement has been slated for Chinatown over the next 10 years?
23. Please detail by year and detail project description.

#### Stormwater Drainage

Over the past two years internal reports showed that many of our gross pollutant traps had failed due to lack of maintenance and renewal.

24. Will the \$15m/\$3.3m budget in 2021/22 render all GPTs working at full capacity?
25. Under the budget being considered will the City of Sydney expect to meet its Zero Waste to Ocean target by 30 June 2030?

#### Long Term Financial Plan

26. How much is in the accumulated reserves?
27. Can Councillors be provided with a copy of the Council resolutions relating to the plan to reduce the reserves to \$200 million?
28. Can Councillors be provided with a copy of any internal policy documents relating to Council's accumulated reserves and long-term financial plan?

#### Balance Sheet

29. Why does the cash position reduce by \$100 million over the next 10 years?

S129268

## 10. Legal Matters Costs and Progress Quarterly Update

By Councillor Chung

### Question

Could the Chief Executive Officer please provide an update since the last advice in December 2020:

1. An update of all court proceedings that Council is currently engaged in broken down by Court and type of matter (eg but not limited to class 1-5 appeals, local court prosecutions, NCAT proceedings, Supreme Court proceedings, IRC proceedings).
2. In table form, a summary of each court matter, costs to date, proceedings number and parties to the matter and status of each matter.
3. Year to date costs for each type of matter broken down by costs for consultants, external lawyers and other costs.
4. 2020/21 and year to date summary of matters finalised by matter including outcome and costs for each matter.

S129268

## 11. Sydney Town Hall Trigeneration Plant

By Councillor Phelps

### Question

On July 2020, the City of Sydney announced that all of the City's operations "are now run on 100 per cent renewable electricity."

However, a 1 June 2021 article in the Australian Financial Review (AFR) reported that, according to the City's energy reports, natural gas usage has increased fourfold from 21,894 GJ to 84,811 GJ between 2006 and 2020.

The Sydney Town Hall trigeneration plant is responsible for a significant increase in natural gas usage by the City of Sydney.

The same AFR article claims that this plant is, in fact, fit to be powered by biogas.

Natural gas now supplies 45.2 per cent of the energy used in the City's operations.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. Why is the trigeneration plant still powered by natural gas?
2. What is the feasibility of transitioning the trigeneration plant to biogas?
3. What steps need to be undertaken before the City is able to transition the trigeneration plant on top of Sydney Town Hall to biogas?

S129272

## 12. Park Refurbishment Plaques

By Councillor Phelps

### Question

Bronze plaques are frequently used around the City of Sydney to commemorate events, people or organisations that have had a significant impact on the local and wider communities.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. In the last financial year, how many bronze plaques have been produced or planned for park refurbishments in the City of Sydney?
2. How many of these plaques mention the current Lord Mayor, Clover Moore?

S129272

## 13. Natural Gas Use by the City of Sydney

By Councillor Phelps

### Question

In July 2020, the City of Sydney announced on its website that all of the City's operations "are now run on 100 per cent renewable electricity."

However, a 1 June 2021 article in the Australian Financial Review reported that, according to the City's energy reports, natural gas usage has increased fourfold from 21,894 GJ to 84,811 GJ between 2006 and 2020.

Gas now supplies 45.2 per cent of the energy used in the City's operations.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. Why has the City included gas as a "renewable energy" in their statements?
2. How have the City's aquatic centres contributed to the increase in gas usage each year since their establishment?
3. Has the City identified any sources of renewable gas that could power our co- and trigeneration systems?
4. If not, will the City commit to converting these systems to electric power so that can be truly 100 per cent renewably powered?

S129272