

Item 11

Questions on Notice with Answers

1. Lighting in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Has the lighting review of on and off path areas at Waterloo Park been completed? If not, what is the timeline for its completion?
2. Has more on and off path lighting been installed in Waterloo Park? If not, what is the timeline for its installation?
3. Has the lighting review of on and off path areas at Joynton Park been completed? If not, what is the timeline for its completion?
4. Has lighting been installed at Joynton Park? If not, what is the timeline for its installation?
5. Has the review of the City's lighting policy been completed? If not, what is the timeline for its completion?

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Information on lighting assessments and reviews was provided in the 16 July 2021 CEO Update. Further information including timeframes will be provided via a CEO Update as the work progresses.

2. Safer Cladding in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. How many fire safety notices for either the removal and replacement of flammable cladding has the City issued? Can this data be provided broken down by:
 - (a) Suburb; and
 - (b) Year.
2. How many plans of management relating to the removal and replacement of flammable cladding are currently in place?
3. How many plans of management relating to the removal and replacement of flammable cladding are currently required?

4. How many disputes over the replacement of flammable cladding are currently in progress?
5. How many buildings have had their flammable cladding removed or replaced?

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. There are (112) fire notices that require the removal and replacement of existing cladding in progress. Cladding replacement projects are scattered fairly consistently throughout the City's Local Government Area. Issued: 7 in 2019; 45 in 2020; 60 in 2021.
2. Plans of management are not specifically nominated under the requirements of a fire safety order. Remove and replace cladding projects are *quality assessed* by the relevant City of Sydney officer. The officer utilises an internal checklist in addition to the terms of the order. The checklist provides key construction heads of consideration to establish that the proposal will deliver a quality and compliant finish under controlled site managed conditions. City officers also conduct periodic compliance site inspections.
3. All cladding projects to remove and replace require submissions to that exemplified in part 2.
4. One court appeal in progress.
5. 39.

3. Racism Not Welcome

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Since the passing of a Notice of Motion to endorse the #RacismNotWelcome campaign in February 2021 how many street signs have been installed? Where have those signs been installed?
2. What other actions has the City taken to support the #RacismNotWelcome campaign?

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City is finalising four locations for the Racism Not Welcome signs to be added in high vehicular and pedestrian traffic areas. A CEO Update will be provided when the locations have been confirmed.

4. Green Square Post Office

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Has a suitable space in Green Square and Redfern/Waterloo for a future post office been located?
2. What is the current timeline for a post office opening in Green Square or Redfern/Waterloo?

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Responsibility for oversight of Australia Post services lies within the Australian Government. Australia Post is bound by performance standards set in specific regulations which, amongst other things, set out requirements for availability of postal services.

City staff have meet and liaised with Australia Post retail network representatives on many occasions requesting a Post Office in Green Square.

Australia Post has advised that it recognises the need of a range of postal services in the Green Square renewal area and at present, in particular, the need for 24/7 parcel lockers offering users Collect, Send and Return. The City is providing information to Australia Post to help identify suitable locations.

A CEO Update will be provided once locations are confirmed.

5. Youth Employment

By Councillor Scott

Question

In July 2020, the Chief Executive Officer was requested to investigate opportunities for the City to employ additional numbers of school leavers and unemployed young Australians in apprenticeships and traineeships through a Notice of Motion passed unanimously at Council.

Since that request how many young people has the City employed broken down by:

- (a) Number of school leavers;
- (b) Number of unemployed young Australians;
- (c) Number employed in apprenticeships;
- (d) Number employed in traineeships;
- (e) Number employed in casual positions;

- (f) Number employed in permanent positions;
- (g) Number employed in full-time positions; and
- (h) Total number of young people employed.

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Eleven young people joined the City as new employees between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.

As at 30 June 2021, the City employed 22 young people, including through our apprenticeship, cadetship and graduate programs.

Of these 22 young people, 17 were employed in full-time positions and five in part-time positions.

Some of the City's recruitment and traineeship programs were impacted by the pandemic with intakes suspended due to difficulties on-boarding and supporting new employees.

ArtsReady traineeship recruitment has resumed with the City currently interviewing four new starters. Two new starters with lived experience of disability have also commenced in July 2021.

6. Pandemic Leave and Stand Downs for City Staff and Contractors

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Broken down by year, how many City staff have been stood down under the Splinter Award, and for how long?
2. Please detail how many City of Sydney staff have accessed vaccination leave in 2021.
3. In 2020 and 2021, please detail how many staff of City contractors have been stood down as a result of Covid-19 lockdowns, and for how long? Please detail a breakdown by the City's top three contractors (by quantum) and the remainder.

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. No City of Sydney employee was stood down under the Splinter Award in 2020.

As a result of new public health restrictions announced on 17 July 2021, 164 employees were stood down with pay under the 2021 Splinter Award. 65 of these employees reside in the Liverpool, Fairfield and Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Areas and are unable to work from home. 96 of these employees are involved in construction and non-urgent maintenance work and are unable to work from home. 3 other employees have no useful work to do and cannot work from home.

2. The City does not record absences or leave taken for employee vaccinations. All employees have been advised that if their appointment is during working hours, they may take paid time off work as reasonably required to receive a vaccination.
3. The City does not have access to these records as the City's contractors are the employer for these staff.

7. Belgravia Leisure

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. What would the cost to the City of Sydney be, per week, to pay Belgravia staff, broken down by casuals and other employees?
2. Please attach a copy of all current City contracts with Belgravia Leisure, and detail the actual annual quantum expended by the City, broken down by year under these agreements.

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City has two contracts with Belgravia Leisure - Management and Operation of Gunyama Park Aquatic & Recreation Centre and Management and Operation of Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre, Andrew (Boy) Charlton, Cook + Phillip Park, Prince Alfred Park and Victoria Park Pools (5 centres) These contracts expire on 31 March 2024.

Belgravia Leisure's average weekly payroll cost for both contracts is \$223,000. The approximate breakdown is \$149,000 for permanent workers and the balance (\$74,000) for casual workers.

The five centres contract commenced in Q3 FY12 and the City has benefited from a financial return each year except for FY20 and FY21 which were impacted by Covid-19. The contract is currently operating under force majeure provisions where the City is meeting the direct operational cost of providing the City's largest community facing service, until the operation achieves a breakeven position at which point the City will receive any surplus.

The Gunyama Park contract is a fee for service model contract. The City is meeting the direct operational cost of providing this service to the community until the centre achieves a breakeven position, at which point the City will receive any surplus.

The direct operational cost for the two contracts excludes utilities and property maintenance, which are considerable for the six centres.

	Income/(Expense) Belgravia Contracts
FY13	0.10 M
FY14	0.33 M
FY15	0.32 M
FY16	0.54 M
FY17	0.70 M
FY18	0.93 M
FY19	0.94 M
FY20	-0.07 M
FY21*	-0.79 M

*FY21 to be finalised and paid upon reconciliation completion of the audited financial statements

Copies of the two contracts with Belgravia Leisure will be provided by a confidential CEO Update.

8. Green Square School

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. When was the last valuation of the site to be entered into the proposed Project Development Deed? What was the valuation quantum?
2. Please detail the compensation (in kind or otherwise) the City will be provided for this land, proposed to be provided to Department of Education under the Project Development Deed.
3. Please detail, broken down by year, other land transfers to the NSW Government for public benefit uses, since 2011, and the monetary or in-kind public benefit or otherwise that the City has received.
4. Please detail, broken down by year, land transfers from the NSW Government to the City of Sydney for public benefit uses, since 2011, and the monetary or in-kind public benefit or otherwise that the City has received.

5. Is there asbestos present in the site of the proposed new Green Square primary school site? If so, please detail how this will be removed and remedied safely, noting the early education and care centre in close proximity.

S129275

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. This information is contained on page 2 of Confidential Attachment F (19 July 2021 Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee – Item 5 -Draft Project Development Deed - Green Square Town Centre Integrated Community Facility and School) – under the heading “Site Valuation”.
2. The Department of Education will be contributing financially to the capital cost of City owned facilities (the shared facilities). This information is contained on page 44 of Schedule 3 of Confidential Attachment C (19 July 2021 Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee – Item 5 -Draft Project Development Deed - Green Square Town Centre Integrated Community Facility and School) – in the table “Apportionment of Payments”. These financial capital contributions from the Department of Education are more than the value of the stratum being transferred to Department of Education. Furthermore, the substantial additional cost to the City of not entering to the Development Deed with Department of Education and then constructing the same proposed community facilities alone is contained on page 3 of Confidential Attachment F (19 July 2021 Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee – Item 5 - Draft Project Development Deed - Green Square Town Centre Integrated Community Facility and School) – under the heading “Options”. The additional costs are significantly more than the value of the stratum being transferred to Department of Education.
3. This information will take some time to compile. The City will provide this information to Councillors via the CEO Update when available.
4. This information will take some time to compile. The City will provide this information to Councillors via the CEO Update when available.
5. The City has successfully decontaminated the rest of the former South Sydney Hospital site and all other projects it has worked on in the Green Square precinct. A Remediation Action Plan is developed by a qualified Environmental Consultant, which is approved by an accredited Independent Environmental Auditor before any demolition or construction commences. Any works involving removal of asbestos would be undertaken as per stringent regulation and safety requirements, and the City will notify adjacent landowners, businesses and residents.

9. Community Consultation for the Botany Road Precinct

By Councillor Phelps

Question

In July 2021, the City of Sydney considered a planning proposal which aims to incentivise commercial development to strengthen the economic role of the Botany Road Precinct.

This is a particularly significant precinct to local communities, particularly to the inner city First Nations community. It is important that thorough community consultation and engagement occurs throughout the finalisation of the proposal, and in the approval of future Development Applications in the area.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. What community consultation has been done on this proposal?
2. What community consultation will be done on this proposal?
3. How will the community be notified that the proposal is on public exhibition?
4. Which community stakeholders will be engaged by the City during the exhibition and finalisation of this proposal?
5. Will there be any mandatory community engagement requirements for developers as part of this proposal?
6. Will there be any mandatory First Nations engagement requirements as part of this proposal?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Preliminary consultation

As outlined in Attachment A3(b) of the Council report, Council engaged Cox Inall Ridgeway (CIR) to undertake preliminary community consultation to inform the Botany Road Precinct strategic review. A significant focus of the Project was collecting information and advice from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the history, significance and cultural heritage of the Study Area, and the communities' priorities and aspirations for the future development of the area.

Community engagement was undertaken over August and September 2020. Engagement was in the form of:

- email or phone invitations to identified stakeholders inviting participation in the Project;
- initial meetings with selected priority stakeholders including the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel to explain the Project and seek feedback;
- individual semi-structured interviews exploring the knowledge and insights that different community members held;

- a group workshop with staff from one Aboriginal organisation; and
- an online survey on the general community's priorities for the future of the Precinct.

In total, Cox Inall Ridgeway received advice or feedback from 23 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals or organisations across 14 hours of interviews. Consultation was focused on Traditional Owners, senior Elders, locally based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and local residents. The community survey was publicised through the City's Sydney Your Say website, a letterbox drop and ads promoting the online survey through Koori Radio. The community survey received 274 responses.

Botany Road Draft Development Control Plan - engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

As outlined in paragraphs 85 to 89 of the 19 July 2019 Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee report (Item 2 - Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal – Botany Road Precinct – Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment) and at Attachment B, the draft DCP includes controls to address the concerns raised in preliminary consultation, including the cultural and historic significance of the area and displacement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations in the area. The draft DCP aims to promote ongoing engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that is wholistic and meaningful to deliver cultural and community outcomes.

The draft DCP includes a requirement for 10 per cent or more of the total number of dwellings in affordable housing developments be provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing. The draft DCP includes provisions to ensure appropriate assessments are undertaken to identify and protect Aboriginal archaeological resources. It also includes controls to celebrate Indigenous history, knowledge, identity and living culture through elements such as public art, landscaping, architecture and design.

The draft DCP provisions require developments to identify potential impacts, such as displacement, on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations. Where impacts are identified, development is encouraged to consult with the affected community with an aim to ameliorating or reducing impacts.

For major development, targeted consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is required to seek community views on the impact of the proposed development and how the development may best maximise the presence, visibility and celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, organisations, businesses and living culture. The draft DCP also requires that consultation activities are to be designed and led by Indigenous-owned consultation advisories or by organisations with Indigenous consultation experience.

Public Exhibition

Paragraphs 99 to 101 of the 19 July 2019 Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee report (Item 2 - Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal – Botany Road Precinct – Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment) outline minimum public exhibition process for the Botany Road Precinct proposal. The minimum public exhibition requirements will be determined by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in the Gateway Determination, and will be for a minimum of 28 days. It is proposed that the public exhibition of the planning proposal and draft DCP will run concurrently.

The planning proposal and draft DCP will be publicly exhibited online on the City of Sydney website in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 and the City's Community Participation Plan.

It is usual practice for the City to undertake additional engagement activities for major planning reforms beyond the minimum requirements for the public exhibition that are set by the Department.

The public exhibition activities will include:

- public exhibition of the draft plan on the Sydney Your Say website;
- a letter to all affected and adjoining landowners;
- a notification to identified stakeholders, including all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations who participated in the preliminary consultation;
- meetings with key stakeholders including the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council; and
- targeted social media and marketing (such as Koori Radio) to ensure interested community members know about the opportunities to provide feedback.

Engagement activities will focus on key parts of the DCP, including:

- the community engagement provisions;
- protecting current cultural and community uses;
- affordable housing and minimising the impacts of displacement; and
- gathering more community knowledge on the proposed heritage items.

10. Greening Sydney Strategy

By Councillor Phelps

Question

The Greening Sydney Strategy 2021 aims to achieve a “greener, cooler, more resilient city” and will do so by planting trees to cover 40 per cent of the city in greenery by 2050.

In previous efforts to green Sydney, the City of Sydney has planted hundreds of Plane Trees. While this species provides effective canopy, they have been banned in the City of Melbourne since 2019 due to their impacts on the native ecosystem, inability to withstand increasingly hot temperatures and negative health effects.

Professor Tim Flannery stated in a Sydney Morning Herald article that Plane Trees are “foreign weeds ... about as much use to our wildlife as concrete posts” and the “Which Plant Where” research points to native trees as more effective in withstanding rising temperatures.

The community response to this strategy included over 20 submissions requesting Council to discontinue the planting of Plane Trees and embrace more native species.

Could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

1. How has the Council previously selected which trees will be planted in the City of Sydney Local Government Area?
2. How will the City of Sydney decide upon which tree species are to be planted throughout the City?
3. Which external Arborists has the City consulted in the past to determine which tree species to plant? Which of these experts were First Nations people?
4. Of the new trees planted, how many will be Plane trees?
5. Of the new trees planted, how many will be native trees?
6. What consideration is being given to native animal and bird species in the selection of trees?

S129272

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City's Street Tree Master Plan identifies the species to be planted in every street across the Local Government Area. Street tree selection involves many complex considerations, which broadly fit into three main categories: environmental, functional, and aesthetic. Further considerations are taken to select large trees suitable for the site, as research has confirmed that larger trees provide more benefits. For example, a larger tree's canopy cover shades more area from urban heat, reducing temperatures by as much as 10 degrees Celsius in the immediate area.

The Street Tree Master Plan was developed to provide a coordinated and strategic approach to the planting and managing of trees across the Local Government Area. Many arborists external to the City have been involved in its development, implementation and review of the earlier and current Street Tree Master Plans over the past 20 years. The consultant team also met with Aunty Fran Bodkin to discuss native species selection as part of the current plan's development in 2010/11.

The Street Tree Master Plan underwent extensive community consultation prior to its adoption, and since then, all street tree planting is undertaken in accordance with this policy. This planting includes new trees where new sites are identified, with the predominant planting being replacements for trees needing to be removed e.g. due to their declining health or condition. Future replacement trees are planted as and when required and the exact number of native species that will be planted over the Plan's future 10-year implementation timeframe is not available. As previously advised replacement planting from 2013 has included 55 per cent native species. Only six per cent have been Plane trees.

The review of the Street Tree Master Plan is due to commence in 2022 and will involve extensive community consultation before being reported to Council for review and adoption.