

Item 11

Questions on Notice

1. Staff Responses to Constituent Emails

By Councillor Jarrett

Question

Councillors often receive emails directly from constituents regarding certain issues which are addressed to all Councillors at the City.

These emails are directly addressed by the relevant staff and responses are sent out directly to the constituents.

Why are Councillors not systematically included on the email sent by the City staff to the constituent to keep us informed of the outcome of the issue?

X086666

2. Public Art Installation – Tobias Rehberger ‘Artificial Sunshine’

By Councillor Jarrett

Question

The City of Sydney has approved a \$1.7 million public art installation and have commissioned German contemporary artist, Tobias Rehberger’s ‘Artificial Sunshine’ design, after he won the international design competition in 2015.

1. Can you provide a breakdown of how the \$1.7 million is being spent:
 - (a) How much is provided as commission to the artist?
 - (b) How much is being used in installation?
2. How is the art installation being powered?
3. Where is the City sourcing the funds for the ongoing maintenance of the art installation?
4. Why is the commissioned artist not a local artist?
5. Has the City Art Public Art Policy and Strategy been reviewed since it was last set to be in 2019?

X086666

3. Closure of Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool in Winter

By Councillor Jarrett

Question

Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool's 2021/22 season concluded on 30 April 2022. The pool is set to remain closed from 1 May 2022 until 1 September 2022.

1. Why is the Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool closed during the Winter months when the City's goal is to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community all year round?
2. In turn, why is the café connected to the pool also closed in Winter when people still drink coffee and enjoy dining out in the cooler months?
3. Are the group fitness classes for Yoga and Pilates still running during Winter? If not, why not?

X086666

4. Council and Public Spaces - Hire Fee and Rent Waivers to Assist the City and the Community during Covid

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. For the financial year 2021/22, what is the total estimated loss of revenue for Council, as a result of waiving or reducing fees or rent for the use or hire of Council assets or spaces, as a result of Covid, broken down by key areas:

Please include in the figures where Council has introduced specific measures to respond to Covid.

- (a) Waiver or reduction of footpath dining fees,
- (b) Waiver or reduction of fees for health and building compliance, market permit and filming fees,
- (c) Flexible approach to parking, including reduced enforcement of parking fines,
- (d) Rent relief (not including rent deferrals) for Council's commercial properties,
- (e) Rent relief (not including rent deferrals) for child-care centre providers,
- (f) Rent relief for Council-owned community properties (noting that this includes community halls, community centres and other properties which are part of the Council's community property portfolio)?
- (g) Other waivers of hire fees for Council-owned community properties?
- (h) Any other significant Council rent, hire or fee waivers provided in 2021/22 to assist the community to adapt and recover from Covid, other than those listed above? (please provide details)

2. For 2021/22, noting that the Council's Community Recovery Plan includes specific actions to maximise the opportunities for the cultural sector in City owned spaces and creative venues, rent relief and fee waivers for Council-owned community properties as noted above, broken down by:
 - (a) Creative tenants,
 - (b) Other tenants.
3. What is the total figure for lease, licence and fee waivers for hire or leasing Council properties or assets (as broken down above) for the financial year 2021/22?
4. For the 2022/23 financial year, what is the estimated total loss of revenue for the City of Sydney Council included in the draft budget, as a result of:
 - (a) Waiver or reduction of footpath dining fees,
 - (b) Waiver or reduction of fees for health and building compliance, market permit and filming fees,
 - (c) Flexible approach to parking, including reduced enforcement of parking fines,
 - (d) Rent relief (not including rent deferrals) for Council's commercial properties,
 - (e) Rent relief (not including rent deferrals) for child-care centre providers,
 - (f) Rent relief for Council-owned community properties (noting that this includes community halls, community centres and other properties which are part of the Council's community property portfolio)?
 - (g) Other waivers of hire fees for Council-owned community properties?
 - (h) Any other significant Council rent, hire or fee waivers provided in 2022/23 to assist the community to adapt and recover from Covid, other than those listed above? (please provide details)
5. For the 2022/23 financial year, what is the rent relief or other waivers for Council-owned community properties as noted above, broken down by:
 - (a) Creative tenants,
 - (b) Other tenants.
6. What is the total figure for lease, licence and fee waivers for hire or leasing Council properties or assets (as broken down above) for the financial year 2022/23?

X086664

5. Budget

By Councillor Scott

1. At the Council meeting on 26 July 2021, Council voted unanimously to request the Chief Executive Officer “investigate the concerns in relation to Hollis Park as part of a future park upgrade to improve disability access.” How much funding in the 2022/23 budget been allocated to this upgrade? When will this project be complete?
2. At the Council meeting on 20 September 2021, Council voted unanimously to request the Chief Executive Officer “order an updated assessment be undertaken to effectively consider the need for an amendment to the small parks and playgrounds renewal timeframe to include an upgrade for the Ernest Pederson Reserve”. How much funding in the 2022/23 budget has been allocated to this upgrade? When will this project be complete?
3. At the Council meeting on 20 September 2021, Council voted unanimously to request that the Chief Executive Officer “investigate design options to improve pedestrian amenity in Seymour Place and Church Street, Paddington.” How much funding in the 2022/23 budget has been allocated to improve pedestrian amenity in this area? When will this project be complete?
4. At the Council meeting on 15 November 2021, Council voted unanimously to request that the CEO “investigate traffic calming measures for Rainford Street and report back to Councillors via the Chief Executive Officer Update”. How much funding in the 2022/23 budget has been allocated to implement these traffic calming measures? When will this project be complete?
5. At the Council meeting on 21 March 2022, Council voted unanimously to request that the Chief Executive Officer “investigate long-term alternatives for the storage of kayaks at Rushcutters Bay Park, including the option of installing free-to-use kayak racks, similar to that of bike racks”. How much funding in the 2022/23 budget has been allocated to install kayak racks in Rushcutters Bay Park? When will this project be complete?

X086668

6. Budget for Parks

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. How much is budgeted for the creation of new parks, and park upgrades, in the City in the 2022/23 financial year, as per the upcoming Council budget?
2. Please provide details of the locations of these parks, or proposed parks, with the details of the relevant budget allocation.
3. Please provide details of the new parks created, and those upgraded, in 2021/22, with the costs.

4. Please provide details of the new parks created, and those upgraded, in 2020/21 2019/20, 2018/19, 2017/18, and 2016/17 with the costs.

X086668

7. Cliff Noble Community Centre

By Councillor Scott

Question

The roof in Cliff Noble Community Centre is leaking.

Has maintenance to address this been scheduled? If so, when is this maintenance due?

X086668

8. JCDecaux

By Councillor Scott

Question

The City signed a contract with QMS Media that began on 30 June 2020, yet the JCDecaux street furniture began to be removed in December 2021.

Broken down by month since January 2020, what were the total sums paid by the City, either directly or through subcontractors, to QMS and JCDecaux under these street furniture contracts?

X086668

9. Returned Grants

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Broken down by year, how many returned grants did Council receive from 2016 to present?
2. Also broken down by year, what was the value of these returned grants?

X086668

10. Staffing for Community Centres and Other Community Venues

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What was is the total budget for Council staffing of community centres and other community venues, in the 2021/22 Council budget?
2. What is the breakdown of the budget for key activities within the Council's budget for community centres and other community venues, in the 2021/22 Council budget?

In brief, please provide details by number and cost of staff, key areas of activity and program costs.

3. Which line items in the 2021/22 Council budget include the activities listed above?
4. What was is the total budget for Council staffing of community centres and other community centres, in the draft 2022/23 Council budget?
5. What new funding for Council staffing of community centres and other community centres, in the draft 2022/23 Council budget?

Please include details of the overall additional budget, and the breakdown of what this is proposed to include.

6. What is the proposed process and timeline to confirm the position descriptions, location and primary activities for the new positions and funding?
7. Which line items in the 2022/23 Council budget include the activities listed above?

X086664

11. Fee waivers for the Community, Not-for-Profits and Low-Income Community Members

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. For the financial year 2021/22, what fee waivers or fee discounts (including library fees, program fees, discounted access to pools, and childcare fees) are available for identified community groups or individuals in the Council budget?
2. Which budget documents, policy or procedures guide when fee waivers or fee discounts are available?
3. In the draft 2022/23 Council budget, what fee waivers or fee discounts (including library fees, program fees, discounted access to pools, and childcare fees) are available for identified community groups or individuals?

X086664

12. Community Concerns Regarding the Proposed Site of a Local Aboriginal Knowledge and Culture Centre

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. Is the City of Sydney aware of community concerns that the proposed site at 119 Redfern Street is not suitable for a local Aboriginal knowledge and culture centre due to the building's colonial and segregation-era history?
2. Is the City of Sydney aware of community concerns that the proposed site at 119 Redfern Street is not fit-for-purpose as a museum/exhibition space as the building is prone to rising damp, has insufficient temperature regulation and faces other long-term maintenance challenges.
3. How will the City of Sydney respond to these concerns?

X086670

13. Places for Women and Children to Seek Safety from Domestic Violence

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. Does the City of Sydney maintain a register of organisations providing shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence in the City of Sydney Local Government Area?
2.
 - (a) Do any organisations providing shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence receive funding from the City of Sydney?
 - (b) If yes, how much City of Sydney funding has been provided to these organisations in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years?
 - (c) If yes, when did funding commence for each organisation?
3.
 - (a) How many women and children were assisted by the 2021 City of Sydney initiative to fund spaces in student accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence?
 - (b) How much funding/what resources did the City of Sydney contribute toward this initiative?
 - (c) Is the initiative ongoing?
 - (d) If the initiative is not ongoing, when did it end?

- (e) Are there any other Council programs operating to assist women and children escaping domestic violence?

X086670

14. Staffing of the Office of the Lord Mayor

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. How is resource allocation for staffing the Office of the Lord Mayor determined?
2. By how much has resource allocation for staffing the Office of the Lord Mayor increased from the commencement of the current Lord Mayor's first term until now?
3. What processes are there for reviewing resource allocation for the Office of the Lord Mayor?
4. Are staff for the Office of the Lord Mayor recruited following the same processes as for other City of Sydney staff?
5. In respect of the Office of the Lord Mayor, for each financial year ended 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2021 what was:
 - (a) The number of staff employed on a full time, part time or casual, basis?
 - (b) The total cost of staff employed?
 - (c) The number of consultants employed or contracted?
 - (d) The total cost of number of consultants employed or contracted?

X086670

15. Council Actions Regarding the Safety of the Bridge Road Cycleway

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. The Pymont Bridge Road Cycleway Evaluation Report (Final) dated May 2021, co-authored by Transport for NSW and City of Sydney, refers to "City Specific Indicators" involving the City of Sydney:
 - (a) Support People to Ride Safely:
 - (i) What is the number of cyclists who have been injured, including those requiring hospitalisation, on Bridge Road Glebe/ Forest Lodge since the cycleway was installed in September 2020?
 - (ii) What information is known about when/where the accident occurred, severity of injury and age of the injured cyclist?

- (iii) How many cyclists were injured on Bridge Road in the 10 years prior to the cycleway being installed?
- (iv) What is the source of data for (i) and (ii)?
- (b) Increase the Number of People Riding:
 - (i) What is the source of data that informs the City of Sydney whether there has been an increase or decrease in number of cyclists riding on Bridge Road?
 - (ii) Has the number of cyclists riding on Bridge Road increased or decreased since the cycleway was installed?
 - (iii) What are the number of trips by cyclists on Bridge Road recorded by counters each month from January 2020 to April 2022?
- (c) Balanced Approach:
 - (i) Regarding the statement in the Evaluation Report that “access has been reasonably maintained across a variety of users” in relation to “safe walking, vehicles, waste vehicles, people with restricted mobility and emergency workers”:
 - (ii) Who conducted the “observations and desktop analysis” evaluating the data that supports the statements in the Report in (i) above?
 - (iii) Over what period were the “observations and desktop analysis” evaluations conducted that produced the data that supports the statements in the Report in (i) above?
 - (iv) Were any investigations conducted by the City of Sydney regarding the impact of removal of the clearway raised by residents with no rear lane access?
 - (v) If the answer to (iv) is yes, what were the findings of these investigations?
 - (vi) Were any investigations conducted about the impact reported by residents getting access to their properties for removals/deliveries/tradies since the removal of the clearway?
 - (vii) If the answer to (vi) is yes, what were the findings of these investigations?
 - (viii) Did the City of Sydney contact Australia Post, Fedex, UPS, DHL or any other delivery company to seek feedback on the impact of deliveries on Bridge Road since the removal of the clearway?
 - (ix) If the answer to (viii) is yes, what were the findings of these investigations?
 - (x) What period of time did investigations occur with respect to the impact of the removal of the clearway on garbage collection and the impact on road safety of these changes
 - (xi) What were the findings of the impact of the removal of the clearway on garbage collection and road safety on Bridge Road?

- (xii) Did the City of Sydney contact the Fire Brigade, Police and Ambulance Service to obtain feedback on the impact of the cycleway for their operations?
 - (xiii) If the answer to (xii) is yes what was the feedback provided?
 - (xiv) Did the City of Sydney contact taxi or ride share operators to seek feedback on the impact of the cycleway for their operations?
 - (xv) If the answer to (xiv) is yes what was the feedback provided?
- (d) Addressing Community Concerns:
- To clarify statements in the Evaluation Report about “addressing community concerns”, and that “the majority of concerns have been mitigated or otherwise resolved”:
- (i) What are the community concerns that have not been mitigated or otherwise resolved?
 - (ii) Did the City of Sydney follow up with any disabled residents unable to access their homes on Bridge Road to check whether a relocated parking spot met their needs?
 - (iii) Since it opened in September 2020, has another safety audit been conducted on Bridge Road cycleway that includes the safety issues the Auditor who conducted the Pre-Opening Road Safety Audit was asked to exclude from his audit?

2. Consultation with Community/Resident/Cycling Organisations

- (a) What are the names of the community and cycling organisations City of Sydney directly consulted with regarding “community concerns” for the Evaluation Report?
- (b) Prior to coming to the conclusion stated in the Evaluation Report that the “majority of concerns were mitigated or otherwise resolved”, did the City of Sydney consult with representatives of the Bridge Road Friends community group who were so concerned about the safety of the cycleway they crowdfunded an independent road safety audit on it in 2020?
- (c) Prior to coming to the conclusion stated in the Evaluation Report that the “majority of concerns were mitigated or otherwise resolved”, did the City of Sydney consult with the Glebe Society, whose members had written to the Lord Mayor and Council raising concerns about safety and loss of residents amenity following the installation of the cycleway?

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