

Item 11

Questions on Notice with Answers

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City receives and manages almost 30,000 incoming contacts per day (over 7.3 million annually) from all sources across multiple channels.

Channel	Average per day
Calls	1478
Email	27,000
Digital	724
Mail	80

The community sends correspondence to the City, Councillors and staff in numerous ways and through various channels. For example, sometimes the community copies all Councillors, sometimes the community copies some Councillors and staff and sometimes Councillors and staff are blind copied in correspondence.

Given the high volumes and range of correspondence channels, should Councillors wish to know the outcome of a specific piece of correspondence, they can request through the Office of the CEO or the relevant Director.

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1.
 - (a) The artist fee for the project commencing in 2017 to completion is \$300k. This covers technical support to the artist such as engineering, lighting design and other relevant technical expertise.
 - (b) The fabrication and installation costs for the work is \$1.4M includes documentation, fabrication and installation for main contractor and 10 subcontractors.
2. Artworks elements will be connected to existing street lighting being powered from the private wire, which is powered by the City’s green power.
3. The City has an annual operational budget for artwork maintenance.
4. An open Expression of Interest was held in 2015 available to local, national and international artists. The evaluation panel recommended Tobias Rehberger as the artist with the strongest proposal.
5. The Public Art Policy has been recently reviewed and no changes have been recommended. The Public Art Strategy (2011) and Policy are scheduled to be reviewed commencing 2023.

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City has no plans to open the Andrew (Boy) Charlton pool during winter.

This centre was designed as a seasonal pool and its scheduled closure each year allows extensive essential maintenance to be undertaken to ensure it is well maintained in the corrosive harbourside environment. The current closure period maintenance works include the painting of the entire pool concourse, major repairs to the timber grandstand, major repairs to the pool filters and repairs to various stainless-steel fixtures around the site.

The City has previously trialled a longer season at the pool which led to the then seven-month season being extended to eight months. The season now starts on 1 September instead of 1 October. The May trial period was not very successful and as a result the season ends on 30 April.

The City owns three other outdoor pools nearby which offer all-year swimming. These are located at Prince Alfred Park, next to Central Station, Victoria Park, located on Broadway, next to Sydney University and the recently completed Gunyama Park Aquatic Recreation Centre at Green Square. The Cook & Phillip Park pool is also in close proximity to Andrew (Boy) Charlton pool and also offers all year-round indoor swimming and fitness activities.

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 2021/22 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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

- 1.
- (a) The Community Recovery Plan references \$4.9M to June 2022, which is the total amount waived since the commencement of the pandemic. The average footway licence fee income, for the five years leading up to the first year of the pandemic was \$2.1M. The City did not budget for footway dining fees in 2021/22 given Council's commitment to support economic recovery in the City.
- (b) Health and Building compliance fee waivers were in place from March 2020 to March 2021, and then reinstated in April 2021. Note that during the pandemic period inspections were suspended for matters other than those considered high risk, in line with the health and building risk assessment, and in the interests of public safety. Reduced revenue in 2020/21 therefore reflects fee waivers, and lower targeted activity.
- Market permit and filming fees of \$60,324 have been waived in the current 2021/22 financial year (to the end of March YTD).
- The proposed budgets for Health and Building related income for 2022/23 and future years is shown on page 45 of the LTFP.
- (c) It is difficult to calculate the gross parking enforcement revenue foregone, as during the lockdown period, enforcement activities focused on safety and infringements were generally issued for safety related offences rather than all parking related matters. The average gross enforcement income in the five years leading up to the first year of the pandemic was \$35M, while the forecast gross enforcement income for 2021/22 is \$19.1M.
- The City supported essential workers by offering parking permits (325) for on street use, and free parking at the two city owned parking stations (along with council staff) to help support these workers. The revenue foregone in 2021/22 was \$287,500.
- (d) The Community Recovery Plan references \$13.2M to June 2022, which is the total amount waived since the commencement of the pandemic. The current 2021/22 financial year's estimate (to the end of March YTD) is \$9.1M, noting that the code of conduct for commercial leases ceased from the end of March 2021.

- (e) The Community Recovery Plan references \$632,189 for the current 2021/22 financial year (to the end of March YTD).
 - (f) The amount of rent relief waived for community tenants in the current 2021/22 financial year (to the end of March) is \$265,720.
 - (g) The Community Recovery Plan (Action 4.4) set the rent relief for creative spaces, short term empty property, creative accommodation grant and live/work Waterloo and William Street tenants. The amount of other venue hire fees waived for Council owned community properties in the current 2021/22 financial year (to the end of March) is \$216,573.
 - (h) The City continues to work to support its tenants, and forecasts an additional \$1.8M in assistance for the last quarter of the 2021/22 financial year. As part of its support response during the pandemic, the City also waived all cancellation fees for events which were unable to proceed, and refunded or rolled over any deposits that had been received for sporting competitions. A venue hire waiver of \$91,363 was granted to the Sydney Local Health District to utilise the Lower Town Hall as a vaccination clinic for the latter half of October 2021.
- 2.
- (a) The Community Recovery Plan report notes creative spaces fee relief of \$28,225 for the current 2021/22 financial year (to the end of March), and \$201,000 since the beginning of the pandemic. Noting that a further \$6,455 has been approved since March 2022.
 - (b) The Community Recovery Plan report notes other cultural tenants fee relief is \$83,883 for the current 2021/22 financial year (to the end of March), and \$381,483 since the beginning of the pandemic.
3. It is challenging to estimate the total figure for the financial year in part because the financial year is not yet complete but also because, as noted above, some services were reduced rather than waived. In addition, a more flexible approach was taken to parking enforcement. All measures were designed to support the community. Excluding parking enforcement the total is likely to be in the order of \$14.5M.
- Note that the revenue policy contained within the Operational Plan sets out the conditions under which the community may apply for fee waivers, discounts or reduced fees.
4. The City has not budgeted for any additional fee waivers for 2022/23, aside from setting the zero fee for outdoor dining for 2022/23 only, noting that the footway licence fee income in normal trading conditions is estimated to be in the order of \$2.5M.
- It is worth noting, that while not due to fee waivers, the City will continue to support its tenants through this difficult trading period and this is expected to have significant ongoing impacts on its direct property rental income, and its rental share arrangements through its long term lease of the QVB.
5. There are no budgeted fee waivers.
- Note that Accommodation Grant Program and cultural tenant rent subsidies amount to \$7.7M.

6. There are no budgeted fee waivers.

5. Budget

By Councillor Scott

1. At the Council meeting on 26 July 2021, Council voted unanimously to request the CEO “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 CEO “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 CEO “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 CEO 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 CEO “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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. As outlined in the 26 July 2021 Resolution of Council, accessibility issues will be investigated as part of a future park upgrade, when the asset condition warrants intervention. Hollis Park is currently in good condition, with three points of accessible access and a fully accessible playground.
2. The Ernest Pederson Reserve upgrade (part of the City’s ongoing park improvement program) was completed and opened to the public in July 2021. No funding is included in the 2022/23 budget.
3. The 20 September 2021 Resolution of Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer investigate design options to improve pedestrian amenity in Seymour Place and Church Street, Paddington.

Traffic and pedestrian counts were undertaken in April 2022, after traffic patterns returned to normal following recent Covid outbreaks, wet weather and school holiday periods. City staff are now working to analyse the data and investigate options, and a CEO Update will be provided when these investigations are complete.

While there are no works included within the 2022/23 budget, if required, future works could be accommodated within the future year forward estimates.

4. The 15 November 2021 Resolution of Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer investigate design options to investigate traffic calming measures for Rainford Street, Surry Hills.

Traffic and pedestrian counts were undertaken in April 2022, after traffic patterns returned to normal following recent Covid outbreaks, wet weather and school holiday periods. City staff will analyse the data to determine if traffic calming treatments are required in Rainford Street and the potential treatment options. A CEO Update will be provided when these investigations are complete.

While there are no works included within the 2022/23 budget, future works if required, could be accommodated within the future year forward estimates if required.

5. The City monitored the use of the watercraft and recreational boating activity during fair-weather, between sunrise and sunset from 23 April until 12 May 2022, to identify the number of watercraft in active use. Signage was installed at both sites inviting owners and the public to undertake an online survey to determine their views on this issue and to assist in the identification of boat owners using or storing their boats within the parks. The survey was hosted and open for comment on the Sydney Your Say website from 8 April until 18 May 2022.

The results of the monitoring and community feedback will be summarised and reported to Council through a CEO Update in mid-2022, assist the City in exploring alternative options to provide for the recreational needs of local recreational boaters, and guide future budget requirements.

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. \$31.5M.
- 2.

\$M	2022/23 Budget	Project Total	Status in 2022/23	
North Rosebery Green Link Stage 1	1.08	2.25	Completing	
Peace Park, Chippendale	0.45	1.35	Completing	
Archibald Fountain	0.65	2.68	Completing	
Tote Park, Zetland	0.31	0.59	Completing	
Blackwattle Playground, Glebe	0.52	0.65	Completing	
James Watkinson Reserve, Pyrmont	1.72	1.84	Completing	
Michael Kelly Reserve, Newtown	0.35	0.42	Completing	
Minogue Crescent Reserve, Forest Lodge	0.88	1.07	Completing	
Ernest Wright Playground, Newtown	0.18	0.23	Completing	
Ethel Street Playground, Erskineville	0.29	0.41	Completing	
Edgely St Reserve, Surry Hills	0.73	0.78	Completing	
Woolloomooloo Playground	1.13	1.92	Completing	
Park on Lyons Road, Camperdown	0.49	1.26	Completing	
Little Cleveland St, Surry Hills	0.26	0.33	Completing	
Sydney Park Impact Mitigation Works	3.83	4.38	Completing	
Pirrama Park Water Recycling System Renewal	0.07	0.18	Completing	
Crown and Corning Parks Water Recycling System Renewal	0.03	0.20	Completing	
Wimbo Park, Surry Hills	1.30	6.21	Continuing	
City Centre Playground Works	0.16	7.77	Continuing	
North Rosebery Park	2.77	4.51	Continuing	
Synthetic Sports Field Installations - Perry Park	2.17	8.73	Continuing	
Alexandria School and Park Synthetic Sportsfield - Joint Use	3.00	8.18	Continuing	
Hyde Park Lighting	0.53	15.99	Continuing	
Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville	1.77	2.60	Continuing	
Synthetic Sports Field - the Crescent	1.16	4.98	Continuing	
Open Space Renewal - Cricket Infrastructure	0.27	0.84	Continuing	
Alexandria Park - McKell Playground, interface work, fitness	0.42	1.68	Continuing	
Arthur St Reserve, Surry Hills	0.04	0.38	Continuing	
Douglas St People's Park, Redfern	0.05	0.46	Continuing	
Avona Ave Streetscape, Glebe	0.06	0.60	Continuing	
Minogue Reserve and Playgrou, Glebe	0.05	1.08	Continuing	
Wattle Ln Park Playground, Ultimo	0.05	0.97	Continuing	
Prince Alfred Park Meadows Pathways	0.05	0.98	Continuing	
Gunyama Park Stage 2 & George Julius Avenue North	0.35	18.43	Continuing	

\$M	2022/23 Budget	Project Total	Status in 2022/23
Fitness Stations - Embarkation Park (part of park renewal)	0.04	0.26	Commencing
Sydney Park - Fmr Nursery Re-use, St Peters	0.20	6.40	Commencing
Darghan Street Steps, Glebe	0.02	0.37	Commencing
Water Features Renewal and Improvements - Various	0.25	0.58	Commencing
Water Recycling Renewal and Improvements - Various	0.10	0.12	Commencing
Water Features Renewal - Barrenjoey Memorial Fountain	0.05	0.05	Commencing
Water Features Renewal - JJ Collins Memorial Fountain	0.05	0.05	Commencing
Robyn Kemmis Reserve, Glebe	0.05	1.07	Commencing
Glebe Street Playground, Glebe	0.02	0.30	Commencing
Mountain Street Reserve, Ultimo	0.04	0.90	Commencing
Ada Villa Terrace, Erskineville	0.02	0.35	Commencing
Regent Street Reserve, Paddington	0.05	1.11	Commencing
Cooper Street Reserv, Surry Hills	0.04	0.90	Commencing
Embarkation Park, Potts Point	0.06	0.06	Commencing
Glebe Library Park, Glebe	0.06	0.06	Commencing
Waterloo Park Mt Carmel, Waterloo	0.06	0.06	Commencing
<u>Rolling works/programs (i.e. not site specific, or no specific end date)</u>			
Sydney City Farm	0.15	1.36	Ongoing improvements
Parks Renewal - Accelerated Minor Works	1.33	N/A	Annual program - minor works various sites
Parks Lighting Program	0.84	N/A	Annual program - minor works various sites
Public Domain Landscaping Program	0.90	N/A	Annual program - minor works various sites

3.

	2021/22 Budget	Project Total	
Drying Green Park, Green Square	8.90	22.63	
Ernest Pederson Reserve, Glebe	0.25	0.65	
Clyne Reserve, Millers Point	1.02	1.22	
Wattle and Broadway Rest area, Broadway	0.22	0.23	
Lawrence Hargraves Reserve, Elizabeth Bay	1.91	2.84	
Vine Street, Redfern	0.12	0.14	
Chelsea Street Playground Heritage Wall	0.23	0.25	
Taylor Square Water Feature Lighting and Civil	0.50	0.50	
Parks Renewal - Accelerated Minor Works Program	1.08		Various sites
Total	14.22	28.48	

4.

	2016/17	Project Total	
Quarry Green Park, Ultimo	0.01	1.26	
City Centre Regimental Square	1.52	1.54	
Harbour Village North Integration Works	0.20	7.32	
Renwick Street Playground, Erskineville	0.29	0.37	
Amy Street Reserve, Erskineville	0.12	0.12	
John St Reserve, Glebe	0.02	0.88	
Playground upgrades/shade sails - Program	0.41		Various sites
Total	2.56	11.49	
	2017/18	Project Total	
Bank street reserve through site link	0.05	0.33	
Victoria Park Upgrade, Camperdown	3.81	5.57	
Elizabeth McCrea, Redfern	0.39	0.53	
Playground upgrades/shade sails - Program	0.41		Various sites
Total	4.66	6.43	
	2018/19 Budget	Project Total	
Harold Park - New Park Construction	0.70	14.23	
Dyuralya Park, Waterloo	3.36	4.81	
John St, Woolley Lane and St James Ave Shared Zone	0.34	0.41	
East Sydney Small Parks Upgrade 222 Palmer St	0.35	0.64	
Fitness Stations Program - in Larger Parks	0.48		Various sites
Total	5.22	20.09	
	2019/20 Budget	Project Total	
Sydney Park Cares Precinct	0.92	2.58	
Maybanke Park, Ultimo	0.21	0.22	
Les White Reserve, Alexandria	0.14	0.16	
Ross Street Playground, Forest Lodge	0.66	0.71	
Crete Reserve Playground and Pathways, Rosebery	0.22	0.27	
Womerah Gardens, Darlinghurst	0.52	0.56	
Parks Renewal Program - Accelerated Landscape Works - Contract Area	0.62		Various sites
Total	3.30	4.50	

	2020/21 Budget	Project Total	
Hyde Park Tree Replacement & Other Works*	1.34	22.37	
Shannon Reserve, Surry Hills	0.37	1.58	
The crescent lands at Johnstons creek	9.66	13.41	
Urban Skate Park - Sydney Park	1.27	8.01	
Daniel Dawson Playground, Redfern	0.91	1.09	
James Hilder Reserve, Surry Hills	0.88	1.05	
Beaconsfield Park Playground, Beaconsfield	1.00	1.17	
Strickland Park, Chippendale	0.41	0.61	
Hollis Park Playground, Newtown	0.77	0.95	
Fig Lane Park Playground, Ultimo	0.22	0.50	
Cardigan reserve, Glebe	0.50	0.72	
Kings Lane Reserve, Darlinghurst	0.07	0.32	
Palmerston Ave Steps and Sarah Penninton, Glebe	0.50	0.69	
Fitness Stations - Pirrama Park, Pyrmont	0.24	0.27	
Parks Renewal Program - Accelerated Landscape Works - Contract Area	1.78		Various sites
Parks Renewal Program - Accelerated Landscape Works - In-House	1.18		Various sites
Total	21.10	52.74	
* as per current adopted plan			

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Maintenance has been scheduled to address the leaking roof. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out in the week of 16 May 2022, subject to favourable weather conditions.

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Total payments to JCDecaux for the period January 2020 to April 2022 are \$8.25M (table below). These are in accordance with the City of Sydney and JCDecaux Street Furniture Extension Agreement.

No payments to QMS Media have been made during this period.

Month	Amount
Jan-20	NIL
Feb-20	NIL
Mar-20	\$38,998.34
Apr-20	NIL
May-20	\$1,401,237.47
Jun-20	\$357,517.16
Jul-20	NIL
Aug-20	\$843,720.19
Sep-20	\$450,990.71
Oct-20	\$404,854.16
Nov-20	\$420,296.44
Dec-20	\$424,349.98
Jan-21	\$535,793.77
Feb-21	\$414,973.24
Mar-21	\$411,907.49
Apr-21	\$410,258.71
May-21	\$424,957.43
Jun-21	\$486,775.16
Jul-21	\$418,235.92
Aug-21	\$79,400.91
Sep-21	\$40,727.10
Oct-21	NIL
Nov-21	\$201,935.41
Dec-21	\$185,908.63
Jan-22	\$145,317.43
Feb-22	\$91,253.23

Month	Amount
Mar-22	\$52,398.62
Apr-22	\$8,338.96
Total	\$8,250,146.46

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Since 2016/17 the City has had 39 returned grants to a total value of \$490,178.

Below is a summary of the number and value of returned grants broken down by year:

Financial Year	Number of Returned Grants	Total Value of Returned Grants
2016-17	5	\$54,889
2017-18	3	\$25,949
2018-19	2	\$31,500
2019-20	6	\$73,897
2020-21	10	\$79,637
2021-22	13	\$224,306
Total Value	39	\$490,178

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The Council budget papers provide a breakdown by business unit. The \$17M falls across two business units and under two separate sections within Creative City and Social City. This detail is not provided in the Council Budget.

The \$17M is made up of operational, programming and staffing costs for community centres, libraries, cultural and library programming, community venues, and the administration team overseeing these operations.

2. The below budget breakdown includes operational, programming and staffing costs:

Budget Summary	21/22 Budget (\$)
Libraries	9,700,919
Pine St Creative Arts Centre	283,198
Cultural & Library Programs	875,265
Community Centres	4,521,407
City Space Admin	993,178
Community Venue	395,179
	<hr/>
Grand Total	<hr/> 16,769,146 <hr/>

Current Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff for financial year 2021/22 is 133.2 FTE.

3. Refer to 1 and 2 above.
4. Refer to 1 and 2 above.

5. The new 9.6 FTE is made up of the below:

- Library Programs and Cultural Programs - 4.98FTE
- Community Centres - 3.62 FTE
- Community Venues - 1.00 FTE

Total 2021/22 = \$6,075M

Total 2022/23 = \$7.3M

Total for all programs, operational and staffing = \$1.2M increase

This is a 20 per cent increase in staffing and programming for 2022/23

6. Recruitment can commence subject to Council endorsement of the 2022/23 budget in late June 2022.

7. The below budget breakdown includes operational, programming and staffing costs:

Budget Summary	Budget 22/23 (\$)
Libraries	10,027,579
Pine St Creative Arts Centre	574,860
Cultural & Library Programs	989,710
City Space Admin	1,108,821
Community Centres	5,238,160
Community Venue	498,452
	<hr/>
Grand Total	18,437,582
	<hr/> <hr/>

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Fee waivers and discounts are listed in the City's [Revenue Policy: Fees and Charges](#) and placed on public exhibition in June each year. In addition, Value in Kind (VIK) for venue hire can be requested through the City's [Grants and Sponsorship](#) program, and up to 100 per cent fee waivers for venue hire are available through the [Community Venue Hire Support](#) program.

Discounts for childcare fees are available on application and are guided by the City's internal procedures, while further discounts are available for some groups and individuals at community centres (such as asylum seekers and those experiencing financial hardship) and through the City's Access Card at pools, gyms, tennis courts and indoor courts. Local schools receive free use of the City's sports fields for school term sports and seasonal bookings receive discounted use. These discounts are in line with the Revenue Policy and are implemented in accordance with the City's delegations register and supported by internal procedures.

In addition, waivers for gap fees associated with childcare fees have been provided to families where there has been non-attendance due to Covid related reasons. This is in line with temporary changes made to Australian Family Assistance Law. The Family Assistance Law is the basis for Commonwealth childcare fee assistance, which includes the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS). These fee waivers will be available to families until 30 June 2022, in line with the current announcements by the Commonwealth. These fee waivers may be extended by the Commonwealth, however this is not known at this time.

2. The City's [Revenue Policy: Fees and Charges](#) and [Grants and Sponsorship](#) program, along with the delegations register and internal procedures relating to further discounts available on application in line with the Revenue Policy.
3. The draft 2022/23 Fees and Charges are included in the draft budget provided to Council for consideration.

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City has been consulting local Aboriginal communities on how the building at 119 Redfern Street can be used.

So far we have received a range of ideas about how it may be used from over 120 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members who have completed a survey or attended a workshop.

We have received a submission from Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council raising the concerns about the colonial nature of the building.

We have approval to remove and store items representing colonial symbols for example etched glass windows. We have undertaken a cultural design study and will continue to seek input on decolonising the building.

2. The City undertakes a comprehensive assessment of buildings before purchase. We have a property management plan for all City owned buildings.

The City of Sydney undertook a development application process in 2021. The proposal was on public exhibition in January to February 2021 and the Development Application was reported to the 28 April 2021 Local Planning Panel meeting. Two submissions in support were received. No submissions raised concerns about the condition of the building.

There is no rising damp at 119 Redfern Street. There is a standard condition of consent to ensure adequate subfloor ventilation and other measure for buildings built prior to 1920 to address the potential of rising damp.

The City is currently undertaking work to the building to install a lift, ensure the building is fully accessible and maximise the space for community use. We are aiming for the space to open in early 2023.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel has been briefed throughout the process to prepare the building for community use.

At no point has the City of Sydney proposed that it would be museum. In the case that the community decides to keep objects that may require a controlled environment, there are experts in this field who can be consulted. We can also learn from Aboriginal communities across NSW with collections in their keeping places and local centres who are balancing community access to cultural objects with preservation of delicate items. The museum standards provide a range to work within and it is a process to manage the needs of the community and the collection rather than prescribing one specific standard temperature. An advantage for the building at 119 Redfern Street is it already has a good air-conditioning system.

3. The City is finalising the first phase of consultation. The City will continue to work with the community to ensure this building provides the best possible opportunities for use by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. No. In order to remain safe, domestic and family violence crisis accommodation locations are not disclosed outside of specialist services in order to reduce the risk of harm to women and children leaving violence.
2.
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) The City has funded services supporting women and their children experiencing domestic and family violence through grants.

\$245,587.00 in grant funding was provided for 13 projects delivered by nine organisations who support people experiencing domestic and family violence in 2021/22.

Covid-19 Grant funding exceeding \$240,000.00 was provided to projects delivered by nine organisations supporting people with experience of domestic and family violence in 2020/21.

- (c) Funding has been provided through grants to support services in delivering projects and programs commencing at different times during the respective financial years including Covid-19 Recovery Grants and Community Emergency Quick Response Grants.
- 3.
- (a) The project has assisted 15 women into student accommodation. Women's Community Shelters Limited is working with each woman to find permanent accommodation.
 - (b) \$118,540.
 - (c) No.
 - (d) Funded until December 2022.
 - (e) The City coordinates a quarterly Inner City Domestic and Family Violence Forum bringing together organisations working to prevent and respond to domestic violence and sexual assault in Sydney. The forum provides networks with opportunities to collaborate for solutions. The City engages specialist services to deliver community capacity building courses to ensure people know where to get help when they need it and to prevent domestic and family violence.

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

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy approved by Council outlines the support provided by the City to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors. It notes that in 2017 the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal observed the "the role of Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney has significant prominence reflecting the CBD's importance as home to the country's major business centres and public facilities of state and national importance. The Lord Mayor's responsibilities in developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, including other councils, state and federal governments, community and business groups, and the media are considered greater than other mayoral roles in NSW."

Accordingly, under the Policy there is provision for an Office of the Lord Mayor to provide support and related services to the Lord Mayor for the purposes of: policy development and advocacy; strategic planning and research; communications and media; community, government and industry liaison; exercise of civic and ceremonial functions; and administrative support.

Under Council's adopted delegations the Lord Mayor has authority to determine the structure of the Office of the Lord Mayor in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the costs being within the annual budget allocated and providing the staffing of the unit does not exceed the equivalent of 22 full time staff (FTE).

2. Between 2004/05 and 2019/20 the Office of the Lord Mayor's actual expenditure has increased by an average of 1.7 per cent per year. This is below CPI increases.

The resident population in the City of Sydney has grown from 152,892 in 2004 to 246,343 in 2019. An increase of 93,451 since 2004 (61.1 per cent increase). Source: ABS Estimated Resident Population 2004-2019.

The workforce in the City of Sydney grew from 385,421 in 2007 to 501,786 in 2017. An increase of 116,365 (over the ten-year period). (30.2 per cent increase). Source: City of Sydney Floor Space and Employment Survey, 2007 and 2017.

3. As with all City business units, the Office of the Lord Mayor's resource allocation is reviewed by Council and adopted each budget cycle.
4. Yes.
- 5.

(a)

Office of the Lord Mayor as at:	Employee FTE
30/06/2016	19.60
30/06/2017	20.60
30/06/2018	20.60

Office of the Lord Mayor as at:	Employee FTE
30/06/2019	21.00
30/06/2020	21.80
30/06/2021	21.19

(b)

Year	Actual (\$M)
2015/16	3.44
2016/17	3.7
2017/18	3.21
2018/19	3.55
2019/20	3.49
2020/21	3.16

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil.

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

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. The Pyrmont 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?

X086670

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1.

(a) Along the length of Bridge Road where there is now a pop-up cycleway:

There were two bicycle injury crashes in the six months before the pop-up cycleway (at Talfourd Street – 47-year-old male and near Burton Street – 31-year-old female).

There were two bicycle injury crashes in the remainder of 2020 (at Gottenham Street – 55-year-old male and at Jarocin Avenue -58-year-old male).

There were two bicycle injury crashes in the first half of 2021 (the latest data available (at Gottenham Street – 17-year-old male and outside number 5 Pyrmont Bridge Road – 27-year-old male)

Crash data is very variable, with between one and six bike crashes per year on Bridge Road in the four years before the pop-up cycleway

Crash data comes from the NSW Centre for Road Safety, and originates from NSW Police crash reports.

- (b) Transport for NSW installed a bicycle counter on each side of the road when the cycleway was installed (in September 2020).

The number of cyclists have increased.

The weekly trip count from opening until March 2021 is shown in the evaluation report. In the first two months it varies between 2,000 and 2,300 bike trips per week. The counter was replaced in May 2021 (due to maintenance issues). Between May 2021 and March 2022 the weekly count mostly varies between 2,000 and 2,900 bike trips per week (it is lower than that during the Christmas and New Year period).

- (c) The Bridge Road temporary (“pop-up”) cycleway is a Transport for NSW project.

Transport for NSW was responsible for the design and implementation of the temporary (“pop up”) cycleway, including the necessary road safety assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

For City of Sydney projects, we would normally make contact with key stakeholders including Australia Post, the Police and Fire Brigade.

- (d) Listed on page 25 of the Evaluation Report.

Transport for NSW met with the resident to relocate the mobility parking space to where it better met their needs.

The Bridge Road pop-up cycleway is a Transport for NSW project and they will can advise if they have done another road safety audit.

2.

- (a) The Bridge Road pop-up cycleway is a Transport for NSW project - the City of Sydney did not contact community or cycling organisations about Bridge Road pop-up cycleway.

Issues raised by the community are shown in the list of issues on page 25 of the Evaluation Report.

- (b) The list of issues and status are shown on page 25 of the Evaluation Report.
- (c) The list of issues and status are shown on page 25 of the Evaluation Report.