

## Item 13

### Questions on Notice with Answers

#### 1. Pedestrian Safety on Bulwara Road, Ultimo

By Councillor Jarrett

##### Question

Residents in Ultimo and the Ultimo Community Centre have raised issues about pedestrian safety at the cobblestone crossing on Bulwara Road and Quarry Street in Ultimo near the Lord Wolseley Hotel.

1. What are the City of Sydney's plans for safety improvements and traffic regulation at the Bulwara Road and Quarry Street intersection?
2. Has the City of Sydney explored the option of installing a pedestrian crossing on Bulwara Road to account for foot traffic from Quarry Street to Ultimo Public School?
3. Has the City of Sydney investigated the use of speed cameras on Bulwara Road?
4. Has the City of Sydney investigated the effectiveness of current road and speed signage on Bulwara Road?
5. Can the City of Sydney provide any statistics or information in relation to the amount of traffic incidents and complaints relating to pedestrian safety on Bulwara Road?

X086666

##### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. In December 2021, the City installed four speed cushions to calm traffic along Bulwara Road between William Henry and Fig Streets. City staff are currently working with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to monitor and evaluate their impact on traffic speed and safety for a two-year period.
2. No. Bulwara Road at its intersection with Quarry Street is a Shared Zone. A Shared Zone has a 10km/h speed limit and vehicles must give way to pedestrians. Pedestrians have priority throughout the Shared Zone. Pedestrian crossings are not recommended
3. No. Only Transport for NSW is authorised to install speed cameras in NSW. Speed cameras are normally installed on major roads where there are significant safety issues with speeding and not generally suitable for local streets like Bulwara Road.
4. Yes. The current road and speed signage are considered adequate to inform motorists of the traffic conditions in Bulwara Road.

5. Traffic counts collected in 2019 showed a maximum of 49 vehicles per hour using Bulwara Road. The most recent Transport for NSW crash data from 2015 to 2020, showed one incident which involved a pedestrian injury in 2018. The incident occurred in Bulwara Road near Quarry Street.

The City receives various public enquiries about traffic and pedestrian safety in Bulwara Road. City staff will collate the information and provide to Councillors via the CEO Update.

## **2. Indigenous Voice Signage at Fig Lane Park, Ultimo**

By Councillor Jarrett

### **Question**

Residents in Ultimo have raised concerns about the lack of Indigenous representation and an Indigenous voice at Fig Lane Park.

1. Does the City of Sydney have any plans to install signage recognising an Indigenous Voice at the site of Fig Lane Park in Ultimo?
2. Will there be signage recognising the Indigenous Voice for that respective area at all current and future parks that are maintained by the City of Sydney?

X086666

### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. There is already signage at this site. The current park signage entry signs (x3 at Fig Lane) include an Indigenous Welcome to Country: 'bujari gamarruwa... You are on Gadigal Country'.
2. Yes. All future parks must include an Indigenous Welcome to Country. To meet the City's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan commitment, all existing park signage that doesn't already include a Welcome to Country will have it by November 2023.

## **3. Staffing: Office of the Lord Mayor**

By Councillor Weldon

### **Question**

1. In respect of the Office of the Lord Mayor, which person or body determines:
  - (a) The number of staff to be employed?
  - (b) The remuneration and terms and condition of each staff employed?
  - (c) The process by which each member of staff will be selected?
  - (d) The criteria for appointment?
2. What (if any) guidelines, procedures manuals or rulings are published in respect of the matters referred to in Question 1 above.

3. What process (if any) is there to review staffing numbers, remunerations, terms and conditions and selection process for the staff in the Office of the Lord Mayor?
4. If there is a process of review in Question 3
  - (a) When do such reviews take place?
  - (b) What procedures are available for submission by Councillors and the community?

X086670

#### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

The Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy approved by Council outlines the support provided to all Councillors, including the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor. 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.”

The Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy outlines the allocation for the Office of the Lord Mayor and under Council's adopted delegations the Lord Mayor has Council 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).

Each term, Council must adopt a new policy on the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to the Lord Mayor and Councillors within 12 months of the election. The policy is required to be publicly exhibited, where members of the public can review and make comments for consideration prior to adoption.

The remuneration, terms of conditions and recruitment/appointment of staff are all undertaken in line with all appropriate City Policies.

#### **4. Tree Mismanagement in Erskineville**

By Councillor Weldon

##### **Question**

Residents in in Macdonald Street and Flora Street in Erskineville have raised concerns about the aggressive lopping of trees in their street in April this year:

1. Was the tree lopping in these streets consistent with the City's established tree management policies and established processes?
2. Was the tree lopping in these streets undertaken by City staff or by contracted workers?

3. What processes are in place to ensure tree lopping is consistent with the City's tree management policies and established processes?
4. Is there a process for review of incidents when community members raise concerns regarding tree mismanagement? If so, what is the process?

X086670

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. Not applicable as the City did not prune the trees.
2. The pruning was not undertaken by the City. It was undertaken by Ausgrid contractors who pruned the trees for powerline clearance.
3. Ausgrid have legislated powers to undertake this pruning work. The City liaises with Ausgrid to try and improve the quality whilst minimising the extent of pruning to the street trees.
4. The City's arborists and service providers review and respond to customer concerns on a regular basis. The City escalates these issues to Ausgrid where required.

**5. Woolloomooloo Toilet Installation**

By Councillor Scott

**Question**

Can City staff provide a time and date that the new Automatic Public Toilet at Sydney Place, Woolloomooloo will be installed?

X086668

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

The development application for the proposed Automatic Public Toilet in Sydney Place, Woolloomooloo was lodged on 17 May 2022. The public exhibition period closed on 21 June 2022. The development application is now under assessment. An installation program will be developed following determination of the development application.

**6. Maureen Oliver Park, Erskineville**

By Councillor Scott

**Question**

1. What progress has been made on upgrading the Maureen Oliver Park in Erskineville in particular the small park playground which was endorsed by Council on 14 December 2020?
2. How many times have City staff attended this Park and found drug paraphernalia since 2020?

3. What steps have been taken by City staff to enhance safety within this park in light of concerns around anti-social behaviour being raised in the decision made in 2020 about this?

X086668

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. The City has a project underway to upgrade Maureen Oliver Reserve. Initial site investigations (survey and tree assessment) have been completed and the City is currently preparing a draft concept design for the park. Community consultation is planned for August/September 2022. Construction is programmed to commence in early 2023, with the project expected to be delivered within eight to 10 weeks.
2. City parks staff have reported approximately four to five syringes being found on the site since December 2020.
3. City parks staff have increased servicing of Maureen Oliver Reserve from twice per week to five times per week to ensure any sharps and litter are regularly removed. The rear secluded area of the park has been planted and low hoop fencing installed to discourage anti-social behaviour in this section of the park.

**7. Erskineville Town Hall**

By Councillor Scott

**Question**

1. How often is the Erskineville Town Hall currently being used on a weekly basis and for what purposes is it being used for?
2. How many local community events have been held at the Erskineville Town Hall in the last 12 months?
3. When was the last time Erskineville Town Hall was used for music performances, arts and crafts or dance performances?

X086668

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. Erskineville Town Hall has daily bookings for activities including cultural activities for older people, physical activity, martial arts, dance, self-help group meetings and Toastmasters.
2. Erskineville Town Hall was closed from 21 June to 11 October 2021 due to Covid-19. Since this time there have been 233 bookings held in the Erskineville Town Hall. These bookings were for activities which members of the community are able to participate in.
3. Regular weekly bookings include music performances, singing and dance.

## 8. Surry Hills

By Councillor Scott

### Question

1. How many complaints have Council received about rodent infestations in the last three months within the City?
2. How regularly does the City undertake baiting for rodents in the area of Surry Hills?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City has received 70 reports of rodent activity from residents in the last three months.
2. The City has 147 traditional bait stations and five electronic multi-catch units within Surry Hills. The frequency of servicing (inspection and bait replenishment as needed) of all bait stations is based on rodent activity; high activity bait stations serviced fortnightly and low activity bait stations serviced monthly. In Surry Hills, there are 27 bait stations with high activity and 120 bait stations with low activity.

## 9. Prince Alfred Park

By Councillor Scott

### Question

When did Council last repair the chairs in Prince Alfred Park?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Seats are inspected and cleaned on a daily basis, including graffiti removal. Painted timber seats are currently being replaced with oiled slats for durability, maintenance efficiency and aesthetics. This renewal program will conclude in Prince Alfred Park by the end of the year.

The City has previously identified the deterioration of the metal seating next to the basketball courts. Following an investigation, it has been determined that the seats are not able to be repaired. It is necessary to remove the damaged seating and it will be replaced with an aesthetically similar seat, durable enough for mixed use by personal trainers and park users. The new seats are due to be installed by the end of the year pending design approval.

## 10. Chinatown

By Councillor Scott

### Question

1. How are the congestion issues in Chinatown during the Friday night markets being addressed by the City of Sydney?
2. When has the City met with residents of Chinatown to discuss how to manage the night markets for businesses?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The market operator is contractually required to submit a number of documents including Emergency Management Plans as well as Risk Assessments and general operational requirements as set out in the license. The operator is required to take appropriate action to ensure as much public space is maintained for thoroughfares. Staff periodically monitor the operations of the markets and have not witnessed any public space being inaccessible or deemed a safety risk for crowding. If congestion becomes a problem the operator's emergency management plan protocols would be enacted to mitigate this on site.
2. Consultation was conducted throughout Chinatown including door knocking of businesses and the setup of a stand at the Chinatown Night Markets to speak with community members. The feedback was generally very supportive of the markets continuing in Chinatown.

Public notices were also issued across three local publications, on Sydney Your Say and on a dedicated markets webpage on the City's website providing details on how to provide public submissions and feedback on a new market licence for Chinatown. These notices were live for feedback and submissions for 28 days between 8 April and 6 May 2022. No submissions or feedback were received during this period.

## 11. Brocks Lane

By Councillor Scott

### Question

1. For how many weeks has there been a raw sewerage issue at Brocks Lane in Newtown?
2. What are the direct actions the City is taking to resolve this issue?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. City staff from the Health and Building Unit have investigated this matter since 17 May 2022, City staff have tested nine connecting sewer lines from 16 properties along Brocks Lane and no defective sewer system has been identified. The water was tested on 15 June 2022 and there was no ammonia in the water indicating it was not sewage.

- In addition to testing the sewer line from adjoining properties, City staff have commenced auditing properties to hopefully identify any illegal greywater connections that may be causing the water leak.

## 12. Dumping

By Councillor Scott

### Question

- What is the response time on illegal dumping reports made through the online portal? How quickly from when the request is made does a City staff representative attend the site to investigate?
- On average, how many requests are being made regarding the same dumping at each site by community members?
- How is the City of Sydney collaborating with local community members to try and find solutions to current waste management issues within the City of Sydney?
- How many missed collections of bulk waste have there been within the last month?
- How frequently is the “dumping hotspot list” updated with Council to ensure dumping sites are regularly used and cleaned more frequently?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

- From 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2022, the average completion time for reported illegal dumping requests was 2.97 days. Surges in Covid-19 cases in 2021 and 2022 coupled with shortages in the Australian labour market have significantly impacted service delivery. City contractors have worked according to their approved business continuity plans during these times and the average completion time is expected to reduce over the remainder of 2022.

City staff only investigate illegal dumping where there is information that identifies the source of the illegal dumping or where the illegal dump consists of hazardous materials.

- Residents can report illegal dumping in different ways. As a result, it is not possible to provide this data in a standard report.
- The City’s Cleansing and Waste teams work with residents and building management to resolve reported waste issues and proactively work with residents and local community members to roll out education programs focused on waste related issues such as diverting waste from landfill and helping to solve waste storage issues.
- 

Reported Missed Waste Stream Type in May 2022	No. of Reports
Missed Mattress / Ensemble Bed	137
Missed Metal / Whitegoods	334
Missed General Bulky Household	665



5. The dumping hotspot list is updated, as required, when areas of concern are identified through daily street cleansing operations and notifications from the community.

### **13. Wimbo Park**

By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

1. What Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation has been made or is planned for the upgrade of Wimbo Park?
2. Is there a plan to implement Aboriginal naming and recognition on the signage that will be used at this park?
3. Is there plans to install temporary seating in Wimbo Park until the upgrades are installed?
4. When will the park be completed?

X086668

#### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. The City's consultation process is inclusive and invited local Aboriginal community members to participate in consultation. Specific consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community was not undertaken. The design of Wimbo Park has also responded to functional requirements and specific concerns of direct neighbours.
2. Signage will feature an Acknowledgement of Gadigal Country and the words bujari gamarruwa as is standard with all park signage. There is no plan to implement Aboriginal naming of Wimbo Park. The name Wimbo Park will be explained in two interpretive signs within the park. The name Wimbo Park comes from former Wimbo Paddock and former, nearby Wimbleton Hall.
3. Major upgrade works will commence later this year. There are no plans for temporary seating prior to then.
4. Wimbo Park will be completed late 2023.

### **14. Permeable Pavement**

By Councillor Scott

#### **Question**

1. How many parks within the City of Sydney have permeable pavement installed?
2. How many rain gardens are currently used throughout the City of Sydney?
3. How many rain gardens are budgeted for in this year's budget and how many permeable pavement installations are budgeted for?

X086668

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. The City generally does not use permeable pavements in its parks as we aim to divert stormwater onto permeable turf surfaces or garden areas. In areas where high volumes of water are expected we design rain gardens or detention basins to hold, absorb and dissipate stormwater. The City does use permeable pavements around street trees in high wear areas or areas where erosion might occur e.g. footpaths with steep slopes.
2. 249.
3. There is an ongoing program of renewal of existing raingardens to ensure their continued performance and there are four new sites to be built in 2022/23.

**15. Tramsheds**

By Councillor Scott

**Question**

1. How frequently is the Harold Park Community Hall at the Glebe Tramsheds being used to host community events?
2. What events are currently being held there that benefit the community?
3. There is currently an absence in Glebe for a staffed community centre, has the City corresponded and collaborated with local residents on how to accommodate this need using this space potentially in the future?
4. What percentage of the Harold Park Community Centre is being used for community activities in comparison to how often it is rented for private services?

X086668

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. There are currently 40 bookings covering every day in June 2022 for a range of community events and programs.
2. Current activities include Yoga/Pilates classes, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir, dance classes, Annual Glebe Art Show, theatre performance and training, book launch and family celebrations for local residents.
3. Following a Lord Mayoral Minute endorsed by Council in March 2022, staff were requested to add more resources to the 2022/23 budget, as well as to conduct more consultation with the community on their needs. Subject to budget endorsement and following consultation with the community to understand their needs and how they would like space utilised, Council will be advised.
4. 93 per cent of current bookings are for community activities. Three out of the 43 bookings (seven per cent) are for private services. These bookings are for not-for-profit educational providers.

## 16. Buses

By Councillor Scott

### Question

1. What consultation was sought when making the decision to amend routes and stops concerning buses from Pymont?
2. When did the 389 bus stop near King Street get removed and what consultation occurred with Pymont residents concerning this removal?
3. When did Transport NSW request that the City remove the bus stop and how was this approved and when?
4. Does the City have a plan to implement a stop on York Street to help with accessibility for residents to compensate for the loss of the King street stop?
5. Does the City have a plan for the 389 bus stop in Murray Street, Pymont to provide a usable connection to existing Light Rail and Ferry stops?
6. Have the City of Sydney had contact with Transport for NSW about Pymont residents' loss of the Pirrama Park Ferry stop?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Transport for NSW made changes to the 389 operations in the city centre as part of the South East Bus Plan in 2021. It consulted with the community, and the City made a submission. The 389 was included because it continues to Bondi Junction.
2. The bus stop servicing bus 389 on King Street was removed by Transport for NSW on 5 December 2021 following changes undertaken to the South East Sydney Bus network.
3. The works to remove the bus stop were undertaken by Transport for NSW in December 2021 following changes to the South East Sydney Bus network. The changes were not referred to the Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) for endorsement.
4. The City does not plan bus stops. It is working with Transport for NSW to have a replacement bus stop installed in the area.
5. The City does not plan bus stops. It is working with Transport for NSW on transport solutions in response to the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy, and will include this suggestion in that work.
6. The City is working with Transport for NSW on transport solutions in response to the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy, and will include this issue in that work.

## 17. Bike Paths

By Councillor Scott

### Question

1. Which temporary bike paths are being removed and when, and who made these decisions?
2. The temporary bike paths in the City of Sydney currently are Pyrmont Bridge Road, Pitt Street, Moore Park Road, and Fitzroy Street, Ashmore to South Eveleigh, Sydney Park Road and Dunning Avenue. Please explain which will be retained and which will be removed?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Council made decisions on all the pop-up cycleways on council controlled roads at its meeting on 17 May 2021 (at <https://meetings.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=3847&Ver=4> - Items 7.3 (Bridge Street, Railway Parade and Henderson Road), 7.4 (Moore Park Road and Fitzroy Street), 7.5 (Dunning Avenue) and 7.7 (Pitt Street).
2. Transport for NSW announced that it would keep Bridge Road cycleway on 1 March 2022: <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/01documents/popup-covid-19-infrastructure/bridge-road-cycleway-community-notification-03-2022.pdf>. The permanent version of the Sydney Park Road cycleway is part of the Sydney Park Junction project by Transport for NSW.

## 18. Grant Programs

By Councillor Scott

### Question

1. How much does the City receive from the Federal Assistance Grants from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund and Roads to Recovery?
2. Please detail how these funds are allocated in the City of Sydney budget?

X086668

### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

#### Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund:

The City has been awarded funding in three phases under Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The funding has been allocated as follows:

- Phase 1 – Completed 2020/21 Financial Year
  - Sussex Street, Haymarket – Granite paving and lighting - \$865,560
- Phase 2 – 2021/22 Financial Year
  - George Street South Pedestrianisation - \$7,052,618

- Phase 3 – To be delivered in the 2022/23 Financial Year
  - Whitehorse Street, Newtown – Shared Zone improvements - \$250,000
  - St Johns Road, Glebe – Pedestrian safety improvements - \$1,417,120
  - Regent Street, Paddington – Footpath renewal - \$64,000

### Roads to Recovery:

The City has not budgeted for a Roads to Recovery Grant in 2022/23 as the City has already received its full allotment for funding over the five year program. The City's allotment was \$4.3M over the five years and was allocated as detailed below.

<u>Work Location</u>	<u>Work Description</u>	<u>RTR Funding</u>	<u>Fin. Year</u>
Burton Street Viaduct, Darlinghurst - West Street to Liverpool Street	Rehabilitation of the footbridge	\$2,311,221	2019-20
Dunning Avenue, Rosebury, Various sections	Road Renewal	\$163,738	2019-20
Intersection of Sussex Street and Goulburn Street	Road Renewal	\$75,646	2019-20
Merton Street, Zetland - Intersection works	Road Renewal	\$93,946	2019-20
Murray Street, Pyrmont - Pirrama Road to Union Street	Road Renewal	\$97,736	2019-20
Avenue Road, Glebe - Victoria Road to Toxteth Road	Road Renewal	\$64,292	2019-20
Bennett Street, Newtown - west of Queen Street	Road Renewal	\$43,405	2019-20
Chalmers Street, Surry Hills - Cleveland Street to Devonshire Street (bus lanes)	Road Renewal	\$43,987	2019-20
Raglan Street, Waterloo - Cope Street to Cooper Street	Road Renewal	\$35,705	2019-20
<u>Work Location</u>	<u>Work Description</u>	<u>RTR Funding</u>	<u>Fin. Year</u>
Crown Street, Glebe - Cowper Street to Bay Street	Road Renewal	\$35,358	2019-20
King Street, Sydney - intersection with Clarence Street	Road Renewal	\$30,860	2019-20
York Lane, Sydney - Clarence Street to Erskine Street	Road Renewal	\$27,674	2019-20
Herbert Street, Sydney - south of Linthorpe Street	Road Renewal	\$30,272	2019-20
Lander Street, Darlington - Raglan Street to Shepherd Street	Road Renewal	\$25,954	2019-20
Fitzroy Street, Surry Hills - Bourke Street to Nichols Street (bus lanes)	Road Renewal	\$23,377	2019-20

<u>Work Location</u>	<u>Work Description</u>	<u>RTR Funding</u>	<u>Fin. Year</u>
Church Place, Paddington	Road Renewal	\$22,631	2019-20
Park Lane, Newtown - Brock Lane to Georgina Street	Road Renewal	\$21,710	2019-20
Boronia Street, Redfern - Baptist Street to Bourke Street	Road Renewal	\$27,607	2019-20
Womerah Lane, Darlinghurst - Womerah Street to Oswald Lane	Road Renewal	\$78,591	2019-20
Maddox Street, Alexandria - Bourke Road to Euston Road	Road Renewal	\$800,000	2020-21
Pirrama Road, Pyrmont, Edward Street to Bayview Street	Light pole and electrical renewal works	\$191,800	2021-22
Eglinton Road, Glebe, Northcote Road to Glebe Point Road	Road Renewal	\$82,292	2021-22
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,327,802</b>	