

Item 13.2

Notices of Motion

Street Furniture Upgrade

By Councillor Gannon

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney entered into a Supply and Maintenance of Street Furniture Agreement with JCDecaux Australia Pty Ltd (JCDecaux) in January 1997;
- (ii) on 6 August 2018, Council resolved to extend the term and align the expiry date of all three Supply and Maintenance of Street Furniture Agreements to 31 January 2020;
- (iii) on 7 February 2018, the Sydney Morning Herald reported *Advertising giants fight for \$500m City of Sydney contract* with speculation JCDecaux would team with Telstra to upgrade phone booths as part of their tender;
- (iv) on 13 May 2019, the Council voted to cancel the tender for Street Furniture, Out-of-Home Media and Wi-Fi Services, with authority delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to approach providers and negotiate, execute and administer contracts for services;
- (v) on 29 June 2020, the Council voted to accept the QMS offer;
- (vi) on 30 June 2020, QMS released a press release stating that they have successfully secured an exclusive 10 year agreement with the City of Sydney;
- (vii) that according to the City's website, work commenced on the upgrade in September 2021;
- (viii) work is scheduled to be completed by January 2023, except for public restrooms which will be completed in June 2023;
- (ix) that the ongoing construction of this street furniture upgrade has been a point of frustration for many residents and visitors to our City;
- (x) on 4 October 2022, the Sydney Morning Herald reported *The new Sydney billboards that have left pedestrians 'walking like ducks' in single file*;
- (xi) in that report, Harold Scruby, head of the Pedestrian Council lobby group, said the new billboards prioritise advertising and commerce ahead of pedestrian safety and amenity;
- (xii) the report also included an account by Mr Evangelidis who noted that the Elizabeth Street Bus Shelters were designed in a way that prevent commuters from seeing oncoming buses;

- (xiii) many Councillors have been directly contacted by angry residents who have been impacted by either the construction of the new furniture or the placement of the new furniture;
 - (xiv) that there are major flaws with the new furniture's design and placement, which have been noted in the media, on social media and by constituent correspondence; and
 - (xv) that an urgent review of this contract and the street furniture upgrade is required; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) commission an external audit of the entire street furniture upgrade to ensure:
 - (a) it meets accessibility standards;
 - (b) that furniture does not impede sightlines for pedestrians or traffic;
 - (c) that the furniture does not create bottlenecks for pedestrian traffic;
 - (d) that the furniture does not encourage pedestrians to walk onto the road; and
 - (e) that the upgrade meets our Sustainable Sydney targets and is compliant with all other relevant City of Sydney policies;
 - (ii) report regularly via the CEO Update the progress of the audit; and
 - (iii) provide a detailed map to Councillors with all newly installed bus stops, communication pylons and street furniture.

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