

Item 12

Questions on Notice

1. Parking Inspections in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Scott

Question

On 22 February 2024, 7NEWS reported that City of Sydney documents titled 'Parking Ranger Goals' expected parking inspectors to be 'highly productive' in issuing fines, and that the City of Sydney had given a statement to 7NEWS that parking inspectors had 'targets' with monthly productivity reports.

1. How many tickets does a City of Sydney parking inspector have to issue per month to meet their 'productivity target'?
2. What financial quantum of tickets does a City of Sydney parking inspector have to issue per month to meet their 'productivity target'?
3. What consequences are there for City of Sydney parking inspectors who do not meet their 'productivity target'?
4. Are any financial or non-financial incentives offered to encourage City of Sydney parking inspectors to meet or exceed their 'productivity target'?
5. Over the past five years, have any City of Sydney parking inspectors been disciplined, demoted or otherwise penalised for failing to meet their 'productivity target'?
6. What safeguards are in place to ensure City of Sydney parking inspectors, under pressure to meet their 'productivity target', do not issue tickets for trivial or marginal infringements?
7. Over the past 12-months, how many parking tickets issued by City of Sydney parking inspectors have been challenged or appealed?
8. Over the past 12-months, how many challenges or appeals against parking tickets issued by City of Sydney parking inspectors have been successful?
9. Broken down by financial year, what is the total income the City has received from parking tickets in each of the past twenty financial years?

X086668

2. Asbestos

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. Please detail, for all City parks where asbestos has been found, the date which asbestos was laid.
2. Please detail, for all City parks where asbestos has been found, the date which asbestos was tested for.
3. Please detail, for all City parks where asbestos has been found, the date and time when asbestos was discovered.
4. Please detail, for all City parks where asbestos has been found, the date and time when the discovery of asbestos was communicated to:
 - (a) the Lord Mayor;
 - (b) Councillors;
 - (c) the media; and
 - (d) the public.
5. Please detail, for all City parks where asbestos has been found, what investigations the City has undertaken to trace the source of the mulch?
6. What investigations has the City undertaken to identify why we were not aware that contaminated mulch had entered the City's supply chain? In the past, the City has bugged our waste to investigate where it is being sent. Were similar steps taken with our mulch? If not, why not?
7. Given the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has announced they are investigating possible asbestos contamination in mulch from a second supplier, what steps have been taken to ascertain which City facilities mulch from the second supplier has been used at?
8. Given recent reports that asbestos contaminated-mulch has been found has been found at a Queensland supplier, indicating the contamination crisis is far more wide-spread than initially believed, what steps has the City taken to identify all suppliers for all mulch used at City facilities?
9. Given the potential for the contamination of mulch with asbestos to have occurred at a much earlier date than originally thought, at which City facilities has mulch from either affected supplier been used within the last 12 months?
10. Has the City set up any measures to investigate the contamination?
 - (a) If yes, what is the composition of that team in FTE positions and at what level and what roles?
 - (b) If no, how many staff across the City are engaged in responding to the asbestos contamination crisis, in FTE positions and at what level and with what roles?

11. Given reports that the contaminated mulch included inappropriate building residue like plastic and metal as well as asbestos, what quality control measures did the City have to ensure rate-payers are getting safe and value-for-money product when the City purchases mulch, prior to the discovery of asbestos?
12. What quality control measures has the City now put into place to ensure no future contaminated mulch is used at City facilities?
13. Over the past 12-months, how many different suppliers have been engaged in the provision of mulch to City facilities?
14. What steps has the City taken to meet our duty-of-care to employees and contractors who have been potentially exposed to asbestos at City facilities over the past six months (or potentially longer) and who may well need long-term health monitoring?
15. What provisions have been made available for any future claim against the City?
16. What provisions have been made for testing?
17. What provisions have been made for staff time to manage the City's asbestos crisis?
18. What provisions have been made by the City's contractors for any future claim against them or the City?
19. What provisions have been made by the City's contractors for testing?
20. What provisions have been made by the City's contractors for staff time to manage the City's asbestos crisis?
21. What random testing has the City done, outside that recommended by the EPA?
22. Why has the City chosen to test the parks we have tested? Please list the parks and other sites tested, and on what date, with results.
23. How has the City triaged the sites to be tested?
24. The Lord Mayor provided an inaccurate measure of time and cost for testing all parks to Council on 4 March 2024. Did City staff provide this advice to her office? If not, where did these incorrect figures come from? If not, will staff undertake to provide corrected figures to Council?

X086668

3. Plaques

By Councillor Scott

Question

1. What is the City's annual expenditure or budget for the creation and installation of plaques with the Lord Mayor's name and/or signature on them, broken down by financial year since 2004?

2. Please list, broken down by year, since 2004, where City plaques with the Lord Mayor's name and/or signature on them, have been installed.
3. Please include photos of all plaques.
4. Please detail the process for the selection of sites for the installation of plaques.
5. Please list, broken down by year, since 2004, where City plaques with any Lord Mayor's name and/or signature on them, have been removed. If any, please detail the cost.

X086668

4. Status of Public Housing Redevelopment in the City of Sydney as at 11 March 2024

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. In answers to Questions on Notice tabled at the November 2023 Council meeting, Council advised the following development applications, modification applications and/or other planning proposals relating to public housing in the City of Sydney Local Government Area are proposed or underway:
 - (a) 17-31 Cowper Street Glebe;
 - (b) 14-36 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe;
 - (c) 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe;
 - (d) 600 Elizabeth Street Redfern; and
 - (e) Explorer Street South, Eveleigh.

Are there updates on the status of these projects?

2. In relation to 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe, please provide information on the timeline for demolition and construction.
3. Has there been conversations with the NSW Government regarding the future use of the old Glebe Fire Station at 113 Mitchell Street, Glebe? If so, please provide details.
4. Since November 2023, have any public housing sites in other parts of the Local Government Area been identified for potential planning changes, arising from other City of Sydney's strategic planning processes or reviews? If yes, please provide details.
5. Since November 2023, is the City of Sydney aware of any further proposals for the development of public housing in the Local Government Area (other than those noted above), that are not yet lodged but in early stages of planning, including consultation pre lodgement?

This includes expressions of interest for public housing sites which are the rezoning of the former NSW Government's public call for rezoning proposals for public housing sites.

6. Have there been any discussions between Council and the NSW Government in relation to changes to Council planning controls in relation to public housing in the Local Government Area generally (i.e. not related to one specific site) in the last three months? If yes, please provide details.

5. Status of NSW Government Redevelopment and Rezoning on Public Land in the City of Sydney as at 11 March 2024

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. In answers to Questions on Notice tabled at the November 2023 Council meeting about current state significant planning proposals within the City of Sydney Local Government Area, a detailed table was provided. Since the answers to Questions on Notice in November 2023, could the Chief Executive Officer please advise:

- (a) Are there updates on the status of these projects?
- (b) Are there any additional development applications, modifications, or other form of planning proposals?

If yes, please provide details or updates in text or in the form of an updated table.

2. Since November 2023, have City staff had any further discussions with any NSW Government representatives about new, future or additional applications or state significant projects on public land in the Local Government Area,, including pre-DA discussions?
3. If yes:
 - (a) Which NSW Government agencies or representatives sought information or attended meetings?
 - (b) Which sites were discussed?
 - (c) What did the NSW Government advise regarding its intentions in relation to each site?
 - (d) What advice or information did Council provide?

X086664

6. Asbestos Contamination in City of Sydney Parks

By Councillor Jarrett

Question

1. Did the tender documents and contracts for the provision and laying of mulch in any City of Sydney public space, include the requirement to comply with the appropriate Australian Standards and state laws?
2. Did those tender documents, and therefore, the contract for supply, and laying of mulch, in fact comply with both the Australian Standards and NSW law, with regards contamination with asbestos products?
3. If there is no specific requirement that the supply and installation of garden mulch must comply with the Australian Standards and the provisions of NSW environmental law in the tender documents or the City of Sydney's contract with the mulch supplier, why was that essential requirement not included?
4. What compliance actions were undertaken by the City of Sydney, before the contracts were certified as being complete and payment for their completion was authorised?
5. What compliance actions were undertaken by the City of Sydney to ensure compliance was maintained throughout the duration of its contract with the mulch supplier/s?
6. Why has there been no public comment from the City of Sydney on what investigations have been or are going to be conducted to determine the legality of the City's compliance with Australian Standards and NSW environmental law in regards to the finding of asbestos in our parks?
7. Under the terms of the *Local Government Act 1993*, all such unrealised liabilities must be reported in the Council's annual financial reports, and specific provision made for their potential. Has the City of Sydney identified the upper potential limits of its potential future legal liabilities from the potential breaches of state law and, made those potential liabilities public, and, if not, why not?
8. Is the asbestos incident covered by the council's public liability insurance and what impact on the future cost of that cover is made by any potential illegal action, or potential incompetence, of council undertaking their duties in this specific case?
9. Can ratepayers, and the general public using City of Sydney public spaces, be certain that this incident does not also extend to every garden bed installed and therefore maintained by City, in any footpath and along any road and in front of their homes within the City of Sydney Local Government Area, and if not, why not?

X086666

7. Costs of the 4 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting

By Councillor Gannon

Question

1. What was the cost of hosting the extraordinary Council meeting on Monday 4 March 2024?
2. How many staff hours were dedicated to the meeting, including in producing briefing materials? What is the estimated cost of this?
3. Were any external guests paid to attend the extraordinary Council meeting or briefing session beforehand, including Carolyn Walsh or Dr Jeremy McNulty?
4. What was the additional cost of catering the meeting and briefing session?
5. How many senior staff attended the briefing session and extraordinary Council meeting? What is the estimated lost productivity of their attendance?
6. How many staff monitored the Council meeting remotely?

X086665

8. On-Street Dining

By Councillor Gannon

Question

1. What is the plan for on-street dining past 2025?
2. What is the annual cost of the hired crash street barriers?
3. Have investigations been made to find alternate solutions to these crash barriers?
4. What investigations have been made to replace the temporary crash barriers with semi-permanent or permanent solutions?
5. If a business installs decking on an on-street dining space, does the City contribute towards this cost?
6. After the expiry of the on-street dining entitlement in 2025, who is responsible for removing the decking?
7. What communication has been made to businesses about the expiry of on-street dining entitlements in 2025?

X086665

9. Cost of Removal, Relocation and Review of QMS Street Furniture

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. What costs have the City of Sydney incurred as a result of the removal, relocation and review of QMS street furniture?
2. What additional costs are expected as a result of the removal, relocation and review of QMS street furniture?
3. Will the City of Sydney incur a loss of future revenue as a result of the removal, relocation and review of QMS street furniture?

X086670